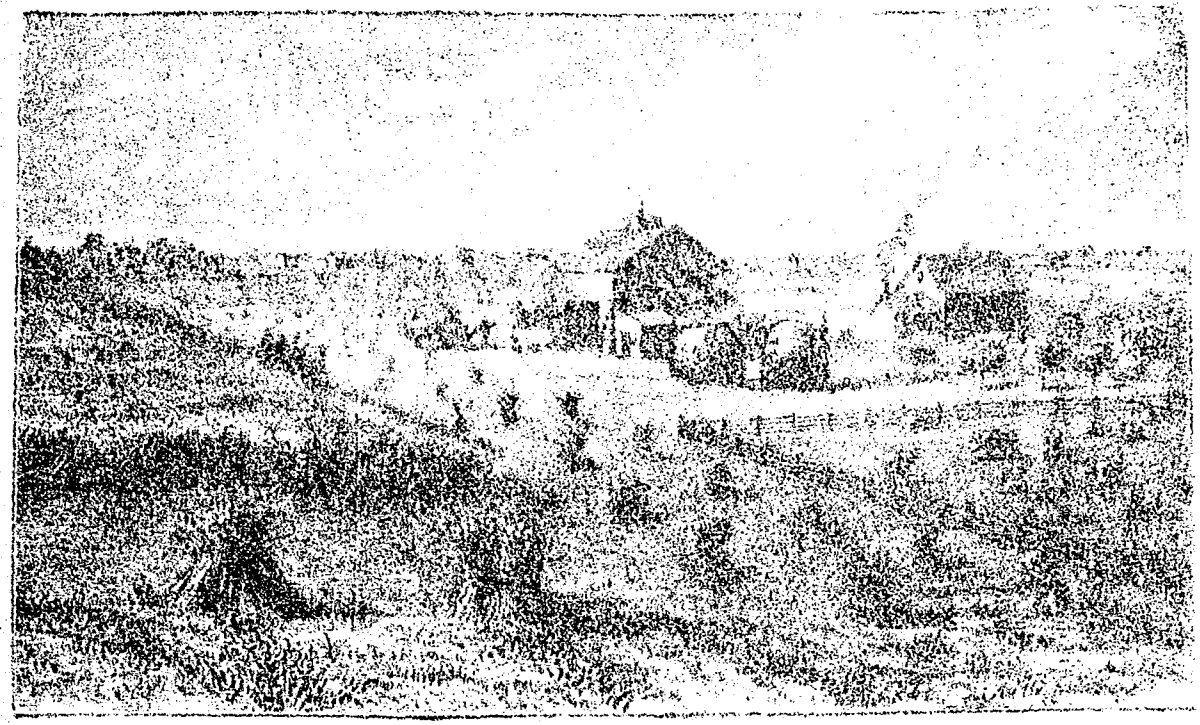
THIRTEEN YEARS ON THE PRAIRIES.



A SETTLER'S FARM—THREE [illegible]

THIRTEEN YEARS ON THE PRAIRIES

From Winnipeg to Cold Lake

Fifteen Hundred Miles

BY

JOHN P. PENNEFATHER, M.D.

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS

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INTRODUCTION.

THE object in publishing these notes is to place before the public, in as brief a manner as possible, a true description of the climate, soil, and inducements for emigration of Manitoba and the North-West, the line between them being an imaginary one.

The writer having travelled over a considerable portion of the country, and being resident in it for thirteen years, qualifies him to form an opinion, and in no instance has he exaggerated the inducements which this great land holds out as a home for the redundant Anglo-Saxon race. It must be remembered that the country is a progressive one, and things foreshadowed soon become a reality, so that the description of one year of the growth of Winnipeg and provincial towns, would be found incomplete in a few brief months afterwards. Winnipeg has just added to her attractions a large and well-appointed park for exhibition purposes, where two large and unusually successful agricultural shows have been held.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

THIRTEEN YEARS ON THE PRAIRIES.

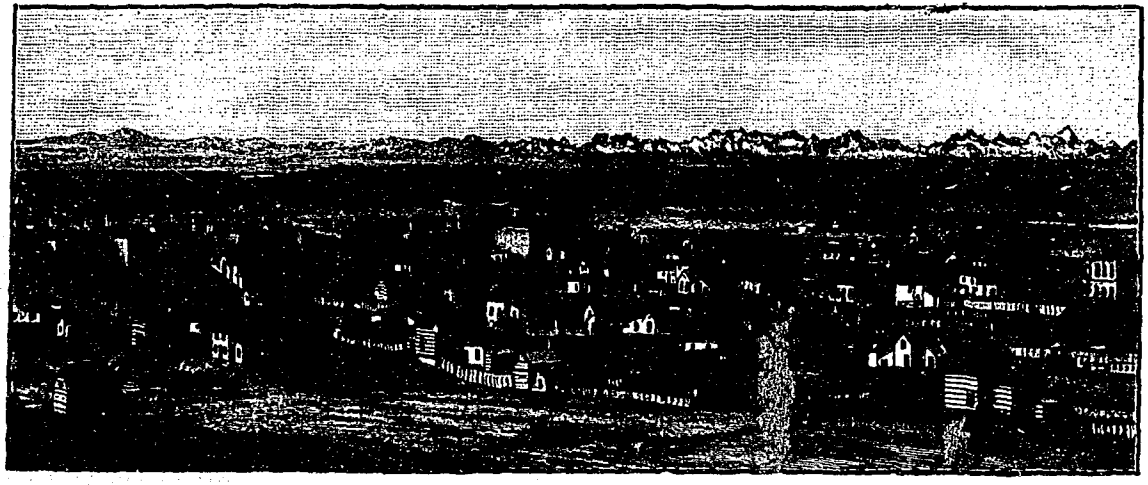
AN inherent love of change, four sons growing up, with other reasons, induced me to contemplate leaving London, where I had resided for some years. My choice lay between the African and American continents, an essential being that the flag of England should wave over the land of my adoption. I eventually decided on emigrating to the latter, choosing the province of Manitoba as my future home. In answer to an application made by one of my sons to the Messrs. Allan, I received a sheaf of literature, relating to the British Possessions in Canada, painting in glowing terms the advantages the great North-West held out to immigrants. In my younger days having seen most of the world—though liberally discounting what was stated in these pamphlets, I decided that there was sufficient evidence to show that North-Western Canada was a desirable country for migrating Saxons to settle in, and a residence here of over twelve years has but confirmed this belief.

Contrary to the advice of many, I threw up fairly

bright prospects in old England; and, having hastily completed my arrangements, we sailed from Liverpool in the good ship *Hibernia*, and after an uneventful voyage of twelve days, landed in Halifax on the 5th of April 1880.

After resting there a few days, we started on the long railway journey to Winnipeg. At that time this was accomplished by several lines, partly running through United States territory, necessitating various changes. Though travelling even then was fairly comfortable, it was far different from the luxurious ease with which the journey can be now accomplished, entirely on Canadian soil, in the magnificent cars and under the perfect service of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which spans this vast continent from ocean to ocean.

We made brief halts at Montreal and Chicago, and arrived on the east bank of the Red River on the 14th of April. There was no bridge at that time across the river. A blinding snowstorm was in full vigour, and we had to turn out up to our knees in the beautiful snow, flounder down to the water's edge, and cross in a small boat to an island of ice in the centre, get across it the best way we could, and embark in another boat, which conveyed us to the Winnipeg side of the river. The remembrance of our first arrival in Winnipeg calls up very pleasant recollections of the kindness of the then immigration agent, Mr. Hespeler, now German Consul here. Commiserat-



PRAIRIE TOWN.

ing us for the inhospitable reception the clerk of the weather was giving to the old-world folk, he energetically exerted himself in our behalf, and no doubt saved us much unpleasantness. By his kindness we had an omnibus sent down to the river-side, and gathering some of our traps together, the luggage remaining on the other shore, we drove to an hotel, and though allowed to get out and enter the passage way, we were then informed that the house was full.

My wife was half frozen, and a lady and gentleman residing in the hotel were very kind, getting her some hot stimulant, which, with a good warm at the stove, set her all right. I was fortunate enough to secure quarters, such as they were, at an adjoining hotel. Such accommodation was at this time very scanty and very crude, and stopping-places of all kinds were much crowded.

The ways of hotel life in England and those then prevailing in Manitoba were so very different, that it took us a little time to get accustomed to the change. One episode I may mention. Returning to the house after a shopping expedition, I found my wife and little girl cooped up in our very contracted sleeping apartment. On inquiring the reason, I was told that all the ladies had been requested to leave the small sitting-room provided for their use, as the landlord's wife wished to take her music-lesson. I fear my remarks at this were somewhat unparliamentary, but older residents laughed at it, my only notice of much stranger

occurrences which I have since encountered in the new world.

Every one I came in contact with was kind and friendly, and I proved the truth of the old adage, that "in a multitude of counsellors there is safety." I received much disinterested advice where to settle, biassed it no doubt was, as each person claimed that the part of the province he was best acquainted with was by far the most desirable to locate in. So that I felt very much in the same position as the boy in the cake shop, who is told to choose what he likes best, but who, in the multitude of good things to choose from, finds a serious difficulty in making his choice.

However, meeting an old-country man who had been in Manitoba for some time, and had been employed in the Government survey, which afforded him the best opportunities of forming a correct opinion, and acting on his advice, I purchased a section of land, 640 acres, from the Hudson's Bay Company, situated on the Cypress River, about one hundred miles from Winnipeg.

When the North-West was taken over by the Dominion Government, two sections were reserved to the Hudson's Bay Company in each township, and it has so chanced that this land is, as a rule, the most valuable in each district, and the section I purchased was no exception to it.

Taking counsel from those who knew the country, I purchased oxen; horses were to be had in abundance at fairly reasonable prices, but they were all recently

imported from the eastern provinces, and would probably have to endure a good deal of hardship and exposure with prairie grass as their only food, for which they were not fitted, until climatised. For one hundred and fifty dollars I got a fairly good yoke of oxen, six years old, and for ninety-five dollars a yoke of steers. A large waggon with cover cost me one hundred and ten dollars, and a cart twenty-five.

On these we packed about a ton and a half of luggage, provisions, &c. By the advice of Mr. Hespeler, who very kindly undertook the care of it, the bulk of our baggage we left in Winnipeg, and many times on our journey we had good reason to rejoice at having done so.

I dreaded bringing my wife and little girl into the wilds until I had first prospected, and was fortunately able to place them with the family of an officer and his wife residing in the city.

On the 24th of April, the frost fast leaving the ground, we commenced our journey, and close to the site of historic Fort Garry our troubles commenced, as we had to cross the Assiniboine River. We engaged two half-breeds. The vehicles had to be unloaded and floated across, the oxen and a horse which I had purchased swimming the stream; the luggage and our party were ferried across in a small boat, the whole performance taking the greater part of the day, and by the time we had loaded up again and got things straight, the shades of night were fast closing in, so we pitched our tent.

I had secured a good-sized one with a stove, which proved a great comfort to us in our long and somewhat weary journey. We slept soundly, after probably the first hard day's work my sons had ever put in.

At break of day we got our breakfast, struck tent, and slowly wended our way towards the land of the setting sun. We had travelled about four miles, the oxen going at about two miles an hour, when down went the wheels to the axle-trees. Fortunately we were accompanied by a settler in the Pembina district, where we were going to, who was taking out a yoke of oxen for a friend. By hitching them on in front, we were enabled to draw the waggon out of the swamp; these soft places abounded on the various trails, and were it not for the help we received from our fellow-traveller and others, some gratuitously, more for a consideration, our journey would have been a very tedious and tiresome one.

In many places we had to unload the waggon and carry the contents some twenty or thirty yards, and even then had frequently to dig out the wheels from the tenacious soil, before the vehicle could be moved. We jogged along with varying luck, some days only accomplishing five miles, on others fifteen and twenty, our best day's travelling being twenty-five miles.

The first part of our journey lay along the banks of the Red River, where we were witnesses of a wild and impressive scene. The day was intensely hot in the latter end of April; on turning a bend we heard a

rumbling sound in the distance, and saw the river filled with huge blocks of ice, tearing and grinding against each other in the rapid current. We feasted our eyes on this for some time before continuing our route, which now lay through a tract of country about forty miles square, colonised by Mennonites, their villages being scattered over its extent.

They are a sect somewhat resembling the Quakers, and come from Southern Russia. Peculiar advantages were held out to them to settle on this land, which is a broad expanse of prairie without a vestige of timber; they are obliged to draw their fuel some fifteen or twenty miles. They are an industrious, frugal, and inoffensive race; they grow large quantities of wheat and flax, which, before railway communication was established, they disposed of in the towns of Emerson and West Lynne. They have their own laws, each village being governed by a head man, and the whole being under the control of a kaiser; they are, of course, subject to the laws of this country; they intermarry among themselves, and are to all intents and purposes an alien colony, surrounded by a British population. To judge from the number of children they are a very prolific race, and as the paternal government of Russia will not allow them to return to that country, as they over-populate the reserve allotted to them, they must mingle with other nationalities, and will, no doubt, in time lose their distinguishing characteristics.

Their dwellings are comfortable and warm, and

generally heated by ovens in the centre, in which their cooking is done, thereby economising fuel. Their villages are invariably built in two rows, separated by a broad roadway, each house facing the back of his neighbour's. What the object is in this, except it be to obtain greater shelter, is difficult to understand. They are an ugly race, uncouth, and the women generally unwieldy. Their language and accent is peculiarly soft, and the hymns which you frequently hear them singing are full of melody.

After passing the most westerly of these villages, we entered on the Pembina Mountain country, which might be more appropriately called the Pembina Hills, for there is no rise of ground to at all justify the appellation of mountain. The change from the monotonous prairie was very grateful. This country consists of undulating prairie, interspersed with bluffs of timber, chiefly poplar and balsam. The marks of fire were very visible in all the timber clumps, charred stumps abounding in all of them. These fires are caused by the long grass of the prairies, which, in the late autumn, becomes as dry as tinder, being ignited either by accident or design. Prairie fires are very dangerous and destructive, and there is a heavy penalty for starting them, but it is difficult to bring it home to an individual.

In the early spring it is permissible to burn the grass, due care being taken to prevent the fire from extending. We managed to stick fast in a slough, and

as it was mid-day, and intensely hot, we unhitched the oxen and left the waggon until after lunch.

Enjoying a siesta, I was awakened by a loud rushing sound, and on starting up was much alarmed to see a sheet of flame some five or six hundred yards in breadth, and ten or twelve feet high, rolling towards us. I gave up all hope of saving the waggon and its contents; but the marshy land, which was the cause of our mishap, stood us in good stead, as, fortunately, there being little breeze, the fire dwindled down before reaching our conveyance, and we were enabled to beat it out with bushes cut for that purpose.

We completed our journey in three days after reaching the foot of the hills, and, to use an expressive Canadian term, both men and beasts were "nearly played out." We were all much pleased at the appearance of the land I had purchased. It was well wooded and watered, a small river, known as the Cypress River, being its northern boundary; and there were about five hundred acres of clear-rolling prairie, with occasional bluffs. Indeed, a landscape gardener could not have laid out the land in a more picturesque or advantageous manner. It required but one of the merry homes of England peeping through the trees to make one fancy it was an English park, and not the centre of a country which a short time since was thought to be useless except as a grazing-land for the buffalo, and hunting-ground for the red-skin. How this idea had been fostered, and this great and desirable

country so long left to its virgin solitude, seems a mystery.

We pitched our tent on the bank of the river, and in a few days had formed the acquaintance of several of the surrounding settlers, composed of Englishmen and Canadians; their dwellings were all built of logs, hewn smooth on both sides, and when well plastered make very snug and comfortable houses. Under the floor of each house a cellar is dug, in which the root crop is stored for winter use, and when properly constructed the frost never penetrates to it.

We arrived at our journey's end the beginning of May, and had we known the necessity, could have got up a temporary shelter; but, as we knew others had done, we determined to remain under canvas until we could build a permanent residence.

We had brought a good supply of provisions with us, and prairie fowl and wild duck added to our larder.

My wife soon tired of Winnipeg, and as she was anxious to join us, I made arrangements for her coming out by buckboard and a pair of horses, changing half-way. A buckboard consists of three or four elastic boards, on four wheels, with a spring seat in front; they do not sink in the soft soil, and are moderately comfortable. By this means, a journey which took us sixteen days to accomplish, she completed in two.

For a time we were very jolly in our tents, but it was not long before the mosquitoes made their appearance, and the heat under canvas was rather trying.

COMMENCEMENT OF A TOWN.

I was contemplating taking my wife and little girl to a village some fifty miles off, when our nearest neighbour, a Gloucestershire clergyman's son, offered us the use of the upper part of his shanty, which he used as a lumber loft. Anything was preferable to being at the mercy of these winged pests, as we found it impossible to keep the tent free from them, so that during the building of our house, for which I had made arrangements, we gladly accepted the offer. This was a rude change from a Harley Street house and staff of servants; but, so venomous were these midges, that, notwithstanding the drawbacks and disagreeables of the situation, and they were very many, our loft life was more tolerable than tenting. I have rarely seen the mosquitoes so bad since then, and after the land was cultivated around the house, they gave us but little trouble.

We occupied our time in cutting and saving hay, and drawing the logs for our house. The lumber I had to get from Winnipeg, bringing it by steamer to a place called Smart's Landing, and then teaming it about twenty miles across country; so what cost me some eighty dollars a thousand, could be purchased in Ontario for eight or nine.

We got a neighbouring settler to plough up five acres for barley, and an acre of garden ground; the barley grew splendidly, and we would have had some very useful grain for winter feed, but being unable to properly fence the place, as the flies prevented our

getting into the bush, our neighbour's cattle got in and made short work of our grain. The potatoes we planted did well, and kept us supplied.

In October a portion of the house was habitable, and we very gladly moved into it. We were unable to properly plaster it before the frost set in, and the thermometer used frequently to fall to thirty degrees below zero in our bedroom. My little daughter used to get up in the morning with her hair all frozen; but the days were bright and cheerful, and we had all made up our minds to rough it, and were in vigorous health.

I was able to purchase some poultry, and a couple of cows and pigs. Provisions were scarce and dear; we had to send for groceries and flour to Nelsonville, over forty miles distant, on a very bad trail, at times quite impassable.

We, however, got along all right, and employed ourselves drawing fire and fence wood; this, with feeding the stock, constituted our first winter's work on the farm.

Provisions running low, and having occasion to go to Winnipeg, I determined on laying in a six months' supply at the Hudson's Bay Store there. I hired a team to drive to Emerson, expecting to be back before Christmas Day, leaving man and sleigh at West Lynne. I took the train at Emerson to Winnipeg, where I was delayed longer than I expected, and got back to West Lynne on Christmas Eve.

The following morning at daylight I started on my

homeward journey, the thermometer marking forty-three degrees below zero. It was pretty cold, and, as we had about sixteen hundredweight of provisions on our sleigh, we were not able to go very fast, as the roads were in bad order. We were making for a stopping-place twenty-five miles out, which we expected to reach early in the day.

It was pleasant enough while the sun was shining, but as evening came on it was intensely cold, and we did not reach our destination until dark. Very hungry and very cold, the glimmering light in the distance cheered us with the prospect of a warm stove and a good meal on our arrival; the former was there, but on inquiring what I could get to eat, I was informed there was nothing in the house. This I could not credit, but it proved to be near the truth.

On expressing my surprise at their being without provisions for travellers, the man in charge of the place coolly said that people had no business travelling on Christmas Day. This stopping-place was afterwards the well-known hospitable home of mine host, Billy Brown.

On pressing the boss, I found he had got out a gallon of rye whiskey from the store in West Lynne, which I repurchased from him. After tapping the barrel and drinking a merry Christmas to every one else, I started on a voyage of discovery to the kitchen, and I soon detected by the brogue that the presiding goddess was a countrywoman of my own, so again

drinking to old Ireland, I sounded her as to the contents of the larder. Whether due to my own touch of the brogue or to the little keg, she produced two dozen fresh eggs, bread, and butter.

Here was a grand find for a hungry man! I was considering in what way I should have the eggs cooked when two other travellers came in, who were out on some business for the projected South-Western Railway. The parties were Mr. Greenway, the present Premier of Manitoba, and Mr. M'Griggor. They were rather dismayed on finding there was nothing to eat, but I cheered them up by telling what I had got hold of; so with bread and butter and the eggs, and rye concocted into steaming hot flip, we spent a merry night, and envied not other mortals who were feasting on roast beef and plum pudding, washed down with sparkling Pommery.

Next morning we started early, but the snow-drifts were very bad, and we had to remain in a farmhouse for two days, in consequence of a blizzard.

On arriving at Nelsonville I engaged another pair of horses, and divided my load, reaching home two days after.

I was doubly welcome, for they were completely run out of all provisions, their dinner on Christmas Day being a prairie chicken and a pudding made with what my wife called tallow, and some tea borrowed from a neighbour, with a piece of rag soaked in grease for light.

However, I brought an ample store, and cases were soon unpacked, and mouths busily at work.

We got in about twenty-five acres of wheat and oats this spring, and had a first-rate crop of splendid grain, the wheat sown being the Golden Drop.

I sowed about two acres of flax, and have never seen the plant grow so luxuriously in any part of the world; our potatoes, not very carefully planted, yielded an abundant return, and our kitchen garden proved to be very productive.

There was a patch of about half an acre, which I had ploughed close to the dwelling to guard against fire. One evening I scattered some white turnip seed over it, and sent the man on the following morning to harrow it in; they were kept fairly thinned out for the pigs, and I do not think that the best cultivated turnip field in all England could grow such immense roots as were pulled in the early autumn in this primitively farmed patch of land.

We got up an abundant supply of excellent hay, and built an addition to the dwelling-house, and in comparison with the houses of other settlers, it was a very comfortable home.

We all now considered that we might fairly look forward to success in our farming operations. My intention was to cultivate a field of five hundred acres of wheat, keeping the remainder of the land for hay and summer feed.

Several railways were prospected, one running

through my land, but it was certain that we could not be very far distant from a line. Two of my neighbours started a general store; a very fair hotel was started by a cockney; a grist and saw mill were built within a few hundred yards of my house, so that the difficulty of procuring provisions and lumber ceased before we were eighteen months in the country.

These stores contain everything, from a needle to an anchor; a good deal of their business is carried on in trade for farm-produce, which is generally shipped into Winnipeg for sale. The store in our neighbourhood was an excellent one, where luxuries as well as necessaries of all kinds were to be had. A blacksmith's and waggon shop appeared in the fall, so that we began to feel ourselves quite independent.

About this time I purchased a score of sheep; all of them lambed early in January. I expected to lose both ewes and lambs, but they all did well, and added about thirty to my flock.

Keeping in view my intention of having a five-hundred-acre field of wheat, I now made my first mistake, and sold my sheep, the trouble of fencing in sufficient pasture for them, and the herd law existing in the settlement, helping to decide me. But I never ceased to regret it; experience proved had I paid more attention to the rearing of stock, and less to the growing of wheat, my farming venture in Manitoba would have turned out more profitably.

But the ease with which wheat is grown, and the

produce, from twenty-five to forty bushels per acre, was strong inducement to expend all our efforts in its production.

My sons all worked hard, though cricket and foot-ball was the severest work they had engaged in at home. We had this year considerably extended our area of land for cropping, and sowed oats, wheat, and barley in good time. It proved to be a very wet season, the rains continuing to the latter end of the summer, seriously injuring the grain, though the growth of straw was phenomenal.

But as we now had cows, poultry, pigs, our own flour, quantities of vegetables, and, from time to time, a supply of elk and moose meat, which we got from the Indians in exchange for flour, together with prairie chicken, partridge, and rabbits, the spoil of our guns, we were not much exercised over the damaged crop.

The winter passed pleasantly enough, one great felt want being, that no Episcopalian clergyman ever came near the settlement. Presbyterians and Methodists held services every alternate Sunday, and there was a resident Roman Catholic priest at the village of St. Leon, about fifteen miles distant. But the third year of our residence found this grievance taken away, for we had a parsonage built, and a resident clergyman, who has, however, in consequence of lack of funds, been since removed.

We also had a good school and teacher, an English tailor, with several other useful additions to our village

community, which was named after the then Premier of Manitoba, the much regretted John Norquay.

We kept the ploughs busy, and in the third year sowed a considerable acreage. The crops all looked most promising, but a frost in the early days of August sadly injured the wheat.

Acting under pressure of the millers and grain buyers, farmers had got out of sowing Golden Drop, and planted Red Fyfe, a grain several days slower in maturing, and I cannot help thinking thereby committing a great mistake. The soil and climate of Manitoba will always produce hard grain, and a week is of great importance in ripening, as the grain, once out of the mulch, will withstand certain degrees of frost, while if in the milk or mulch, it will be ruined by it.

The flour made from this wheat was rather dark, and the bread made from it sweet. The price offered by buyers was so low as to induce few of the settlers in my district to team it twenty miles to a market. It made first-rate feed, when crushed, for the stock, and the best of it ground for flour made excellent and wholesome bread.

It was whispered that several millers made largely by the frozen wheat of Manitoba, buying at fifteen and twenty cents a bushel, and mixing it with the soft wheat grown in the eastern provinces, the roller process requiring the hard grain of Manitoba for grinding purposes.

THRESHING FROM THE STOOK.

This frost did not discourage us; we increased our cultivated land, and in the spring of '84 we put in about one hundred and seventy acres of crop; five acres of this was cropped with an early spring wheat I had imported from England, from the well-known firm of Messrs. Oakshott of Reading, who very liberally sent me out four sacks of wheat with the understanding that I was to return them filled with the Manitoba produce.

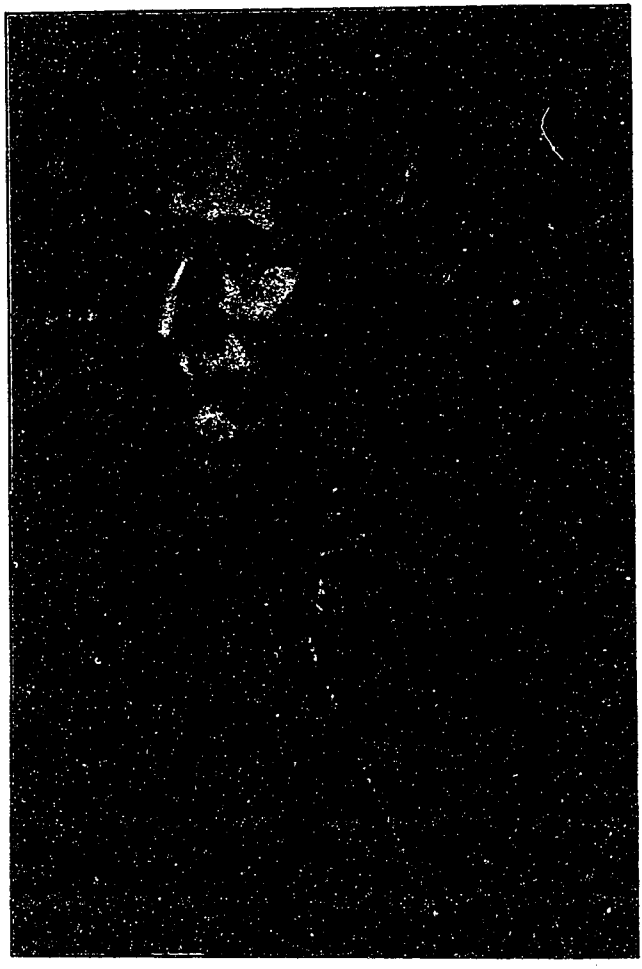
All went well, the crops, especially the English wheat, looking most luxuriant; and so pleased were the surrounding farmers at its appearance, that it was all bespoken at two dollars a bushel. But on the 16th of August the temperature fell to six degrees of frost, followed by several days of scorching sunshine, which so damaged the grain as to render over two-thirds of it entirely useless, and the remainder barely good enough for chicken feed. I cut a few acres, and turned the cattle into the remainder.

My sons became disheartened at these consecutive failures, due to climate, and though assured by old residents that such early frosts were before unknown, they decided to abandon farming and take up other pursuits, which they carried out, and, I am happy to say, have all succeeded, though I believe they would be in much more independent positions had they continued on the farm. There can be little doubt that the farmers cultivating their own lands will ere long be the wealthiest members of the community.

Labour was so scarce and expensive that I did not see my way to carrying on farming operations with hired men, so I decided to abandon what had cost me several thousand dollars, and to again resume the practice of my profession. I did not, however, arrive at this conclusion without many heartburns. We had conquered the inevitable troubles and difficulties attendant on first settling in a new country, but my wife's very natural dislike to the place decided me, and I determined to build a residence in the town of Manitou, on a branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

While the house was in progress early in the year 1885, what is known as the half-breed rebellion broke out, under the leadership of Louis Riel, who was subsequently hung at Rejina. Lieutenant-Colonel Osborne Smith, who was then raising the Winnipeg Light Infantry, now the Manitoba Light Infantry, offered me the position of surgeon to his corps, which I accepted, and having filled up our ranks, we started by the Canadian Pacific Railway for Calgary, nearly a thousand miles distant.

We made brief halts at Portage La Prairie, Brandon, Broadview, Moose Jaw, Swift Current, Maple Creek, and Gleichen. The greater number of them were then small villages, but they have since grown into important and well-populated towns. On arrival at Calgary we were met and inspected by Major-General Strange, who was in command of the Alberta force, after which we



CHIEF CROWFOOT.

pitched our camp under the hill, crowned by the barracks of the North-West Mounted Police.

On April the 23rd, Crowfoot, the chief of the Blackfeet, who has since died, paid us a visit. He was a fine-looking man, about sixty years old, dressed in a semi-military costume, tricked out with a good deal of gold lace. He was accompanied by about forty of his band, together with chiefs Old Sun and Bear Child. The Blackfeet were not at all disaffected, their old chief being always friendly towards the white man.

Bull's Head, the chief of the Sarcees, came in the day after and had an interview with Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, who sent him back rejoicing with a goodly supply of tea and tobacco.

Calgary, even at that time, was a considerably-sized town; it has since grown rapidly, and is a very thriving centre, and, from its geographical position, will in the future become an important city. It is well situated, having the Bow or Elbow river running close to it, and in the distance are plainly visible the snow-clad peaks of the Rocky Mountains. Our butcher was Mr. A. C. Sparrow, and finer beef and mutton than he supplied the battalion with could not be found in Smithfield Market. They were all four or five year old beasts that had never been under shelter, or had received a bite of food except that which the prairies afforded them, keeping throughout the year in first-rate condition.

While lying in Calgary the most sensational stories

were circulated as to the atrocities perpetrated by the Indians on prisoners they had captured, especially on several females who were known to be in their power. These proved afterwards to be absolutely without any foundation; but it inflamed the feelings of the men, and there was a general desire to get after Big Bear and his band and take vengeance upon them.

We left Calgary on the 28th of April, marching north to Edmonton, having to our left the ranges of the Rockies, glistening in the sunshine. We halted eight miles out to get the baggage train, &c., into shape, and resumed the march on the following day, covering twenty-six miles. On the 30th we marched about seventeen miles, camping about three miles beyond Scarletts, a store and stopping-place kept by a rancher.

The weather was most delightful—robins singing, frogs croaking, and ducks quacking in all directions. The men were in excellent spirits, singing gaily, though many trudged along with badly blistered heels. Our baggage-train consisted of sixty-four two- and four-horse waggons. Along our route were springs of excellent water without a trace of alkali. The country is magnificent rolling prairie, and for hundreds of miles not an habitation or human inhabitant was met with.

While marching along I could not help contrasting the happy life of freedom which thousands of the struggling poor of London might here enjoy with

the misery and want they are known to suffer from, though dwelling in the centre of the world's civilisation. With very moderate capital and ordinary energy, comfort in the present and independence in the near future is assured to the settler in this favoured region. The prairies were a verdant green and covered with wild flowers.

On the 31st we struck camp at six o'clock, and a few miles out met Father Lacombe, one of the best known persons in the North-West, and respected by all. He was on his way to Calgary to exert his influence, which was considerable, with the agitated tribes of Indians in the district. He intended to first visit Crowfoot, but expressed himself as satisfied that the Blackfeet would not go on the war-path.

We halted at eleven o'clock for breakfast at a place known as the Lone Pine, a single tree on an elevated plateau. These landmarks were then of great value to the traders, especially in winter, when the whole surface of the ground, as far as the eye can reach, presents one unbroken expanse of snow.

About four miles north of it we passed a small settlement called after a once well-known M.P., the late Bernal Osborne. The position was very picturesque, and excepting for its isolation was all that could be desired. The 1st of May found us at 6 A.M. passing through a country of the same character, with the exception that the poplar bluffs, the only kind of timber we had hitherto met with, alternated with fir

and spruce, the dark green of the latter contrasting with the emerald hue of the poplar. The snow-clad mountains were glistening in the sun, and many a longing eye was cast towards them, for the sun was very powerful, and our march of sixteen miles rather trying.

The heat was, however, tempered by a gentle breeze, which is rarely absent in these latitudes. Ducks and prairie chicken were very numerous, but there was an entire absence of four-footed animals. Since leaving Winnipeg, we had only seen three antelopes, and one jumping deer. This may be accounted for by the time of the year, when the animals seek with their young the shelter of the dense bush.

Next morning reveille sounded at 4.30, and at 8 o'clock we arrived at the Red Deer crossing. The colonel had sent on an officer and six men to see that the ferry was in order. This work Lieutenant Alexander, of No. 3 Company, efficiently performed. On our arrival at the crossing we found a company of the 65th Rifles left by General Strange in charge of stores. This corps had marched the day before us. The trail between Red Deer and Edmonton being very heavy, orders were given to leave all stores and baggage that could be done without. The teams were accordingly unloaded, and actual necessaries required on the march were alone given transport.

Our course lay along the banks of the Red Deer river, which is from 120 to 200 yards wide, with a

very swift current. The banks are lined to the water's edge with pine and spruce. A railway now runs from Calgary to Edmonton, and thriving villages are springing up along the route, that at the old Red Deer crossing growing rapidly.

We here for the first time saw hostile Indians. A party of Crees were observed about six miles distant scouting along the mountain side, evidently noting the movements of the column. We pitched camp at the crossing, the transport of horses and waggons across the river being necessarily tedious. The few settlers here reaped a rich harvest, selling their bread at a dollar the small loaf, and a compound called home-brewed beer at twenty-five cents a glass. To judge by the grimaces of those partaking of it, it was dear at any price. We here met a missionary and his wife who were on their way to Calgary from Edmonton; but, fearing the marauding bands of Crees, returned under our protection. Milk was sold at a dollar a quart, and eggs ten cents apiece. These prices were freely paid by those who luckily had cash, as hard tack and meat fibre, called canned beef, had already begun to pall on many.

In the evening Major Hatton, in command of a company of scouts, reported having chased six Indians, no doubt those that were watching us. The 4th was spent in camp, the whole day being occupied in getting the column across the river. This delay was most vexatious to the Colonel, and indeed to us all, but it was

unavoidable, as the river was much swollen by the melted snow from the mountains, which usually does not occur until later in the season. The men were all the better for the halt, as it allowed their feet to be attended to.

The weather still continued splendid. Cropping out from the sides of the banks were seams of coal, apparently of excellent quality, so that fuel should be cheap in the town now springing up there. Crossing the river at noon, we marched twelve miles; the trail was low and swampy, but there was no alkali, and vegetation was far advanced and redundant. On the 6th we resumed our march, and covered fifteen miles before breakfast. The country we passed through can only be appreciated by those who have travelled through it. For beauty of scenery and extreme fertility it will compare favourably with most parts of the world. We met with one solitary settler's house, with its single inhabitant, a veritable monarch of all he surveyed.

Four Stoney Indians met us with a written request from Rev. Mr. MacDougall, a Presbyterian clergyman, to allow them to pass south, which they were permitted to do. Mr. MacDougall informed me that the Stoney Indians have for many years been Christianised. Their attendance at divine worship is large and regular. The women are comfortably dressed, similar to whites, and they are very attentive to their religious duties.

One curious feature struck many of us, namely, the

further north we travelled, the more advanced was all vegetation. The grass was perfectly green, while the trees were bursting into leaf. Violets and wild flowers decked the prairie, and when taking these notes on the banks of a silvery sheet of water, waiting for breakfast, the ubiquitous swallow was skimming over its surface. Spring was here far in advance of Southern Manitoba, over a thousand miles south-west of this place. Next day we started at our usual hour, 4.30, marching through Coyote's Reserve.

Bob Tail, the second chief of the Crees, took stock of us as we passed with bayonets fixed and band playing; the squaws, to judge from their grins, thoroughly enjoying the sight. The slightest act of hostility on the part of these Crees would have led to their utter annihilation, for the feelings of all were raised at the reports which were flying around, but no act of any kind gave an excuse for retaliation on our part. The braves, at least those visible, for it was said the greater number were with Big Bear, had a dirty, unkempt appearance. We halted for breakfast about a mile outside this village. The bands of Crees in this vicinity under Sampson Bob Tail and Ermine Skin are Roman Catholics and Protestants. The padres bespatter each other's bands with accusations of disloyalty. Probably all would be disloyal if they dared, but no doubt religious acrimony lends its bitterness to the situation. Some of these so-called preachers of peace and good-will are not uncommonly radiating

centres of discord, pursuing pecuniary gain under the cloak of religion, donning the rôle of the apostle to facilitate the actions of the money-grabber. There are, of course, many bright examples of opposite character, but the exception proves the rule.

After breakfast we resumed our march, passing through a second Indian village, Ermine Skin's. The young braves were posted on a neighbouring hill, about twenty in number. In this settlement several fields were under cultivation, and well fenced; the cultivated land was all under crop. We passed on through the Bear hills, and over many an alkali flat. On the 8th we marched to Pipestone Creek for breakfast, a distance of twelve miles from our last halting-place.

This creek is a fast-running stream of very pure water, its steep banks lined on both sides with large fir, poplar, and birch. During the midday march we passed a Government Indian farm. Some fine cattle were grazing close by, and from the buildings and remains of fencing it was apparent that a considerable outlay had been made on the place. It, however, wore a dismal aspect of neglect and decay—fences fallen down, and once cultivated land overrun with weeds. A small detachment of the 65th were also stationed here; they were rather lonely quarters, but the men seemed very contented.

Continuing our way through a low, swampy country, very uninteresting, though fine grazing land, we pitched camp, and starting at five the following morning, we

passed through a country if possible more disagreeable to travel over than that of yesterday, it being composed of a succession of alkali swamps, which continued until we got near to Edmonton.

We pitched camp at about two miles from that town, and on the following day, Sunday, crossed the Saskatchewan under a salute from the Hudson's Bay fort, given by the direction of that prince of good fellows, chief factor MacDougall. We here came up with General Strange, commanding the force. Edmonton is well situated on a high plateau overlooking the river. As you ascend from the landing-place, you come on the Hudson's Bay fort, which covers a considerable area, and in days gone by, when the only weapons of the Indians were the bow, arrow, and tomahawk, if properly defended, it could defy the redskins. No motto was ever better applied than that of "*ab uno disce omnes*" is applicable to the old Hudson's Bay chief officials; whenever or wherever you met them you were certain to find gentlemen, hospitable and courteous, and unusually intelligent, the then chief factor at Edmonton being typical of his kind.

Many of the settlers in the surrounding district had come into the fort and town for protection. The Indians and half-breeds, who were numerous in the neighbourhood, though not committing any actual outrage, had for some time been very insulting in their demeanour. We camped on the bank of the river underneath the fort, and many were soon wan-

dering over the town in search of something stronger than water, the only fluid being what is called hop beer, a little of which goes a long way.

While at Edmonton, the Adjutant, Captain Tupper, and one of the lieutenants, who had previously served in the police, went out at night and arrested Laurence Gerneaux and St. Germain, both accused of being in correspondence with Riel. The former had a short time before been a candidate for the North-West Council, and was a man notorious for his disloyalty; it was said that he was a prominent person in Riel's former rebellion when Fort Garry was taken possession of, giving an opportunity to the present General Viscount Wolseley to distinguish himself as a commander, his rank being then that of lieutenant-colonel. They were captured without difficulty; had they resisted, short shrift would have been accorded them. St. Germain thought his last hour had come, as the soldiers in the tent where he was temporarily confined, joked him on his dangerous position. Under the influence of fear, he put General Strange in possession of valuable information. These prisoners were subsequently taken by us to Fort Saskatchewan, and confined there.

During this detention in our camp Father Listane came to see them, greatly excited, as he had heard that both the prisoners were about to be hung. This ecclesiastic was supposed to have been one of the prime movers in Riel's Red River rebellion, and, rightly

PRAIRIE VILLAGE.

or wrongly, to him was accredited active participation in the murder of Scott on that occasion. The Saskatchewan is a broad and very swift river, the translation of the word being "rapid stream." The scenery along its banks is superb; they are very high, and are wooded to the water's edge, the fir, poplar, and willow foliage intermingling. It was decided to transport the troops on board of scows to Fort Pitt, and on the 14th of May we embarked, all vehicles and horses being sent by land, with the exception of six horses belonging to the nine-pounder gun. We observed thousands of swallow's nests wherever a landslide had occurred or the mud cliff exposed; so thick were these nests that they presented the appearance of a huge honeycomb. As we floated along, an occasional silver streak would appear through the woods, this being a stream of water arrested by King Frost while actually pouring over the bank into the river.

Eighteen miles below Edmonton we passed Fort Saskatchewan, a mounted police post. Through some mistake the scows did not stop here, and the prisoners were sent on shore in a small boat. Opposite the fort there was a large building, said to be an hotel. For the lovers of solitude and the picturesque few places could offer more attractions. Lower down, we anchored alongside the bank for the night. With very little assistance other than the current we had run forty-five miles. We prepared for starting at 3.30 the following morning; but, owing to the sinking of the

scow containing the gun horses, considerable time was lost. Though in a hostile district we received no molestation, though the high precipitous banks, well wooded, invited an attack with impunity. Coal was to be seen sticking out of the river's bank, and on the bends of the river were beds of gravel and black sand, which yield a paying amount of gold and platinum to those going to the trouble of washing it out. This gold is supposed to have found its way into the river by glaciers. It has not been found lower than Fort Pitt, or higher up than Rocky Mountain House, one hundred and fifty miles above Edmonton, on the Saskatchewan river. Gold is also found in the M'Leod, the Athabasca, and in larger quantities on the Peace river. We observed on the river bank an expensive outfit for securing the coveted metal; but it was, unfortunately, at the time idle. On Saturday the 16th we arrived and landed at Fort Victoria. This at one time had been a very important Hudson's Bay post, but of late years had been almost entirely disused. It is beautifully situated, and will no doubt in days to come become a town site, when the banks of this splendid river will be dotted with towns and residences. The waters here abound in fish, both pike and sturgeon, with which we were well supplied. There was a small band of Crees in the neighbourhood under Pacan; these were friendly disposed towards the whites. Pacan shot one of Big Bear's scouts, who was sent to induce them to join in the rebellion.

The following morning we marched to Saddle Lake, twenty-eight miles distant. On arriving there we met Major Steel and Captain Oswald in command of a company of scouts raised in Calgary. Captain Oswald had just returned from Fort Pitt, which had been raided by Big Bear, and the M'Lean family taken prisoners. On Sunday the 24th, after a brief address from the General, we marched at 3.30, passing by a succession of very pretty lakes and tame surroundings. About 4.30 we arrived at Frog Lake, a charming situation, but recently the scene of a horrible tragedy. Shortly after camping the scouts reported having found the remains of four bodies. I was directed by the General to inspect them, and about a mile distant, close to the burned mission-house, lay the charred remains of four men. The extremities were burnt off, also the faces and front portions of the head, the backs of the trunks being comparatively uninjured, proving the correctness of the rumour we had heard that, after being shot, the bodies had been covered with petroleum and set on fire. Portions of cassocks adhering to the back showed the remains of three of them to have been the priests in charge of the mission and a lay brother, the fourth body being that of the Indian instructor. A few yards off lay the body of a fine young man, supposed to be Gilchrist. The remains were placed in a common grave, and decently covered over. On the following morning Captain Clarke of our corps, being a Roman Catholic, read the prayers of his Church over the remains, so

that the relatives of the murdered men have the satisfaction of knowing that the sad remnants of mortality were at least treated with Christian sympathy, and received Christian burial. It was sad to see a place, which had evidently much pains bestowed upon it, rendered waste. A pretty garden, tastefully laid out, surrounded one of the cottages, and in front of the mission was a large, well-tilled field, ready for cropping. For many years this place had been the abode of two or three priests, who had devoted themselves to the wants, spiritual and temporal, of these ungrateful savages, who hesitated not to foully murder them, one being sacrificed while in the act of administering the last rites of his Church to a dying Indian.

Early next morning I paid a visit to the late Mr. Gowanlock's house, about two miles distant from our camp. This proved to be a good log building, beautifully situated on the banks of a small river, which was dammed for the purposes of a saw-mill, then in course of erection. Mr. Gowanlock, his wife, and a Mr. Gilchrist resided here; they were all reported as having been murdered, minute details as to their assassination being given; our object was to find the bodies and bury them. The house had been ransacked throughout, and the paper on the walls slashed into ribbons; a cretonne partition was cut into shreds; the floors littered with books, papers, and letters; not a single article of furniture or even a cooking utensil was left. Outside the house the same confusion reigned.

Around lay the machinery for a first-class saw-mill, which would have largely benefited the district. In searching for the bodies, I approached the mill dam, and was struck with the countless number of pike swimming about, and thought it not improbable that the villains had ended their hellish work by throwing the bodies into the river, and hence the great number of these fish had congregated.

This turned out to be erroneous, Mr. Gowanlock and Gilchrist being both murdered when at the mission-house. Mrs. Gowanlock was kept a prisoner, and the most revolting stories were told as to her fate, winding the whole force up to a pitch of fury. It was afterwards found that there was no truth in these rumours. She subsequently escaped from the Indian camp, and got into Fort Pitt.

Having gathered together any papers which I thought might be of consequence, we got into the saddle again, and after a sharp ride caught up with the column. Owing to information received, the General had started earlier than he had originally intended. We pushed on rapidly to Fort Pitt, which we found still smouldering, one building which had been used as a storehouse alone standing. The Indian trail we followed was broad and distinct, loot of various kinds being scattered along it. Around the remains of Fort Pitt were all manner of articles, stores, waggons, half-consumed tins of various provisions, &c., and some of all the almost innumerable articles to be found in a

first-class Hudson's Bay post, mixed up with other things which had belonged to the ladies occupying the fort.

Mr. M'Lean had a small party of mounted police under the command of Captain Dickens, a son of the celebrated author, with him in the fort. I failed to get the true history of this episode of the rebellion, but it is a fact that the police left the M'Lean family in the fort, and went down by boat to Battleford. Mr. M'Lean, relying on his influence with the Indians, had gone into their camp when Big Bear detained him, and it was said that on his recommendation the police took this course. But, with a fairly strong position, well provisioned and ammunitioned, this act met with scant commendation; but such reticence was observed in everything in connection with it, that a correct opinion was impossible to arrive at. The M'Lean family were assured by Big Bear of his protection and care—a promise which, I believe, he fulfilled to the best of his ability, for they arrived at Pitt bearing little trace of hardship or suffering.

Majors Steel and Hatton, with their scouts, were ordered to follow on Big Bear's trail, and report to General Strange on locating him. It was believed by all that these acts of lawlessness proved his intention of fighting it out, and that with the reinforcements he was supposed to have got from Poundmaker, he was now picking out an advantageous position to stand and give us battle. It was ascertained that the Indians had

divided into two bands, the warriors going to Pitt, the remainder passing it by another trail.

The tainted air coming from a block of poplars close by led to the finding of a body advanced in decomposition—two bullet wounds through the head, one through the thigh, the chest ripped open, and the thigh slashed down to the bone, the head scalped, with the heart stuck on a stick, were sad evidences of the redskins' deviltry. The remains were identified as Cowan's, a mounted policeman, who was known to have been shot; but it would seem that he had first sent several of the rascals to their happy hunting-grounds. It is stated that Cowan was returning from scouting, and reached the fort just as Big Bear, with two hundred and fifty warriors, had camped on the hill above it, and had summoned the fort to give up arms and ammunition. On seeing Cowan and the second policeman, who was also scouting, coming towards the fort, Big Bear hid in a poplar bluff, and opened fire. In defending themselves Cowan was killed, and Loasby severely wounded. The latter managed to get into the fort, and eventually recovered.

The following morning we were greeted with the news that the trail of mounted men was struck, though cleverly covered from the site of the fort for some distance out. Every particle of horse or cattle manure had been removed from it. We had also the satisfaction of hearing that four Indians had been met with on the previous evening by Steel's scouts; one of them

was shot dead, and there was evidence to show that at least two of the others were badly wounded, and, it is believed, subsequently died. The Indian killed, and whose body we found when on the march, lay on the hillside stark naked; he was known as Mamnook, one of the Saddle Lake Indians, and was a splendid specimen of a man. He was one of three brothers holding prominent positions in their tribe, and celebrated for their fine physique. This fellow lay nude on the green grass under the bright morning sun rays, and, I regret to say, minus his scalp. This mutilation was done by a teamster, of whom several were Montana men, who, when opportunity offers, pay off the redskin in his own coin, it being popularly supposed among them that the spirit of a scalped warrior cannot reach the happy hunting-grounds of their people. This man when shot was clothed in a mounted policeman's uniform, and was armed with one of their carbines. He was said to be the first Indian who fired at and wounded Cowan, so that a just retribution soon overtook him.

On Wednesday, the 27th of May, we camped in the evening on the side of a hill, having passed on a short march of nine miles several Indian encampments recently occupied, evidencing that Big Bear's band was but a short distance ahead of us. We came upon one large enclosure composed of young trees stuck in the ground, and roofed over with branches adorned with large strips of various coloured calicoes, where a great pow-

wow and sun-dance was to have been held, but we pressed them too closely.

On the morning of the 28th of May we were early on the march, and came on a strong force of the rebels, who were circling on the top of a hill. After exchanging a few shots, the nine-pounder was brought to bear on them, and the Light Infantry were ordered to clear the hill; but after two shots, and before our men could reach them, the dusky warriors made off.

At 3.30 on the following morning we were on the march, and at 6.30 the column was halted, the scouts forming the advance having heard the neighing of a horse to the right of the force, and soon afterwards we observed mounted Indians galloping on the outskirts of the bush. Big Bear's position was admirably chosen, on the top of a hill, almost perpendicular, intersected by a narrow gorge filled with all kinds of impedimenta, called Frenchman's Butte. Their position was separated from the rise of ground we halted on by a deep ravine about three hundred yards in width, the ground of it being a complete swamp. A line of rifle-pits were constructed by them along the top of their position. Their evident desire was for us to attack them, and while entangled in the morass, pick us off at their leisure. Major Steel was ordered to make a reconnaissance along our side of the ravine to look for a crossing, as well as to find out, if possible, the enemy's strength. They resorted to a clever ruse to attain their object of deceiving us as to their

strength. Some half-dozen or so of braves, keeping in shelter of the bush, kept ahead of the scouts firing single shots, leaving Major Steel under the impression that a large body of Indians were lining the opposite side of the ravine for a long distance, which was so reported to the general.

The 65th Montreal Rifles, forming part of our force, were much weakened, detachments of this corps being left to garrison several posts *en route*, so as to keep up our communication with Edmonton; but the remaining men of this gallant corps, under Colonel Hughes, were ordered to line the edge of the ravine, keeping in shelter of the timber, and with that *élan* characteristic of their countrymen, they tumbled down the hill before the word of command was well given. A company of the Winnipeg Light Infantry, under Captain Wade and Lieutenants Mills and Norquay, were ordered to make their way to a bluff midway across the ravine, and shelter themselves there, awaiting further orders. Captain Perry not having returned from Battleford, where he had been sent with despatches to General Middleton, the command of the gun was given to Mr. Strange, the General's son, now an officer in the Royal Engineers, Gerald Pennefather acting as the General's aide-de-camp in his stead. We opened fire on the enemy, who promptly replied. The nine-pounder was splendidly handled, and the shrapnel shell must have done considerable execution. We peppered away merrily for about three hours and a half, bullets whistling

freely about us, but only wounding three men, when a false alarm was spread that the enemy was outflanking us. This was caused by the teamsters, who were left about a mile and a half in our rear, fancying they were about to be attacked, and firing away at random. Miscalculating the force opposed to us, and considering the position occupied by the Indians, who had evidently good marksmen among them, and the loss of life we should certainly sustain in crossing the ravine to dislodge them, and our force being under one hundred and fifty infantry all told, reluctantly, and with intense chagrin, General Strange withdrew his forces from the woods, and we camped on the plain.

Our casualties consisted of two privates shot through the chest, and a mounted policeman shot in the knee. The wounded men being attended to and placed in the ambulance, the force returned to Fort Pitt to get provisions, which had just arrived there under escort of a company of the Winnipeg Light Infantry. The whole column had been on short rations for several days. On the following day we retraced our steps to within about five miles of the enemy's position, and there awaited the arrival of General Middleton with reinforcements. Poundmaker having surrendered, all was quiet in his district. Sunday the 31st was a pouring wet day. We had a church parade, but certainly could not complain of its length. The General officiated, and performed the whole service in five minutes. We

stayed in camp all day, and a very dreary day it was—torrents of rain, and very cold; but we were cheered by news from Middleton, that he would be up the following day with four guns and some five hundred men. With this addition, we knew we could give a good account of Big Bear and his band. Early on the 1st of June a reconnaissance was ordered under Majors Steel and Hatton, who returned with the unwelcome intelligence that Big Bear had abandoned his position, leaving a quantity of his camp equipage, numerous furs, waggons, carts, and a quantity of articles plundered from stores and settlers. Having left our wounded and sick in hospital at Fort Pitt, and being reinforced by a company of the 65th and another of the Winnipeg Light Infantry, which had arrived with supplies from Calgary, General Strange decided on following Big Bear, and not waiting for General Middleton. Accordingly, at dawn on the following morning, we marched to Big Bear's late camp. Close inspection showed with what good judgment the position was chosen, and the wisdom of our general in not incurring the certain loss of life that would have attended the storming of it. All the same, I do not believe there was a man in the force who did not regret that the attack was not made. Though unable to ascertain the enemy's loss, the effect of our fire on the timber was evidence of its deadliness. We subsequently learned that a division in Big Bear's council as to the surrender of the prisoners and capitulation was the cause of his sudden retreat

from a position that he had determined to defend to the last.

In the evening Mr. Quinney, now a Protestant clergyman, late a prisoner of Big Bear's, but who had escaped with his wife and two half-breed women and men, came into camp and informed the General that his wife, who was in a delicate condition, was hiding in the woods at some distance. The General requested me to go with an escort of Major Hatton's scouts to take an ambulance and bring in the escaped prisoners. We started at twelve o'clock, and after a sharp ride of over twenty-four miles came up with the party sheltered in a bluff of poplar, and right glad were they to see us. After a short rest and a good cup of tea, we stowed men, women, and children in the waggons and started for camp, where we arrived without adventure of any kind.

The following day General Middleton came up with us, having come from Battleford by steamer to Frog Creek. General Strange asked for mounted reinforcements, of which we were in much need, and as it was now more of a chase than ever, it was supposed that we would get at least a hundred mounted men and a Gatling gun, which would have enabled General Strange to follow up and complete Big Bear's capture; but, to our surprise and great disgust, not only was our column not reinforced by mounted men, but Major Steel and his scouts were detached to follow Big Bear, and we were directed to intercept the probable crossing

of the Indians at Beaver River. Steel, whom I was to have accompanied, but was too late in returning with the clergyman's party, came up with the rear of Big Bear's band at Loon Lake, and after a demand had been made in the Cree language by Canon, now Archdeacon M'Kay, and replied to by a rifle shot, Steel vigorously attacked the Indians, driving them out of the camp into the water, where several were shot. On finding out the small number of the force following them, all told under eighty, and a fifth of this number being required to hold the horses, the Indians took the offensive, and Steel was compelled to retire, first setting fire to a large tent containing ammunition and furs. Sergeant-Major Fleury, a gallant soldier, and two privates were badly wounded, and I despatched an ambulance and assistant-surgeon across country to convey the wounded men back to Fort Pitt. The Indians did not attempt to pursue Steel, whose horses were quite played out. The grass was not sufficiently grown to be nutritious, and for days previous there had been no oats for them. Strange had received orders from General Middleton to go by a different trail to Beaver River, so that we could afford Steel no assistance. Had he had the support of the infantry, Big Bear's whole band would have been captured. It was very mortifying to us, who had pursued Big Bear for over six hundred miles across a country without even the semblance of a road, often on reduced rations, wading through sloughs and rivers,

to be thus robbed of our prey when almost within our grasp.

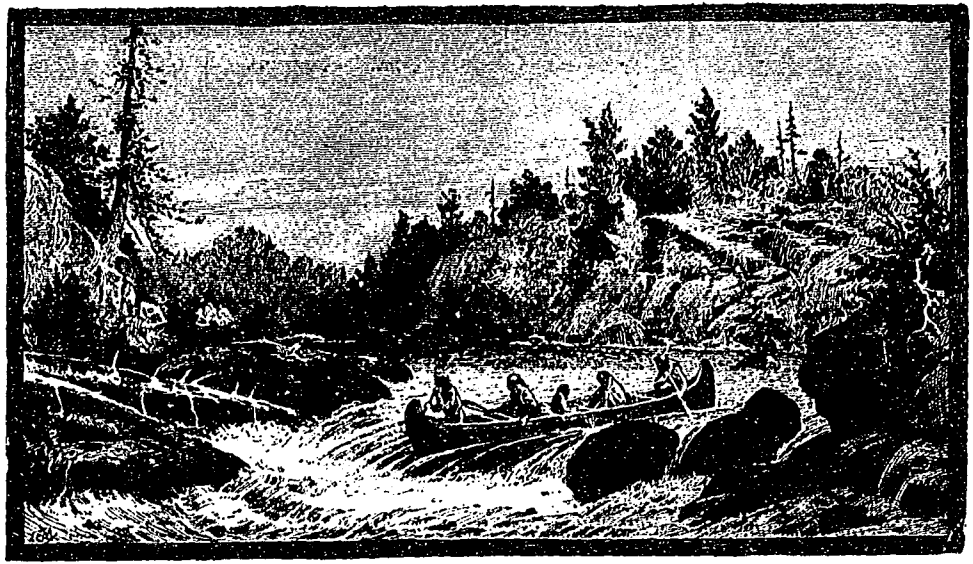
General Middleton, with a considerable force, met Steel returning to Fort Pitt, and placing him in rear of his column pursued his way to Loon Lake, but did not attempt to follow the Indians across the marshy tract they had retreated over. Strange's brigade was left with about two dozen mounted men, not sufficient to keep up the ordinary courier service, but with that obedience, the first duty of a soldier, and the pluck for which he is well known, Strange marched his attenuated column to the Beaver River, about ninety miles distant. Again passing Frog Lake, our supply officer, now known as Captain Goodwin, ferreted out about one hundred bags of flour from where Big Bear had stowed it. He destroyed the rest, with a quantity of bacon, which had far from an appetising appearance. The flour was tested before being supplied to the men, for fear that it might have been tampered with.

While at Frog Lake two more bodies were found and buried, and ten miles further on we found a further supply of flour. As we approached Beaver River many comfortable-looking Indian houses were to be seen, but all abandoned. In these houses a considerable amount of valuable furs was found, which scouts and teamsters quickly appropriated.

Among the escaped prisoners was a man in the Hudson's Bay employment, who complained bitterly of the injury the Indians had inflicted upon him, but this

gentleman's share of loot in the fur line must have well compensated him for his losses. Being a resident in the district, he was able to make his way to the various caches and hiding-places, where Indians and half-breeds had stowed away their plunder, and help himself.

The day before our arrival at Beaver River a scout reported having seen an Indian, and also having found traces of a considerable party having crossed. A night march was ordered, as it was thought probable this band would pillage a Hudson's Bay Company Store in the district, known to contain a considerable quantity of flour. For five miles we waded through a shaking bog; the gun was pulled through by the infantry, the six horses being unable to move it. Right glad were we all to get out of this place. Several times I thought my horse and self would disappear bodily, so far down did he sink. On emerging from it, the trail lay through a cut in the forest, admitting of single file only. We arrived at the end of the timber at 1 A.M., and bivouacked. At daylight, no sign of an enemy being discernible, we marched on through a lovely country, and pitched camp about a mile and a half from the river, headquarters being located in the mission-house, the dwelling and chapel of Father La Groff of the Chippewa Mission, who had been captured by the Indians and his place looted. The rest was very grateful to man and beast, and no event of interest occurred except the arrival in our camp of



SHOOTING A RAPID.

Father La Groff, who was paddled across the river by a Chippewayan Indian.

It was arranged that this priest, accompanied by Father Prevost, the much-esteemed chaplain of the 65th, should visit the Chippewayans next day and take them General Strange's ultimatum, namely, that they should come to our camp and surrender, and lay down their arms, and in the event of their refusal their houses would be burnt down, and the band pursued.

In the meantime preparations were being made to enable the troops to cross the Beaver River—a broad, deep, and rapid stream, then considerably swollen by late heavy rains. Up to June the 11th neither of the priests had returned, and considerable anxiety was felt about them. About two o'clock in the morning I was awakened by the crack of a rifle-shot, followed by several others. It was reported as an attack on one of the sentries, replied to by his comrades on outpost duty, but the truth of this was more than doubtful. The attack was in imagination only. About seven o'clock a bustle in the camp denoted something unusual, and it proved to be the return of the priests, who announced the acceptance of the terms.

Shortly after twenty-three Chippewayan braves came into camp and piled their arms, and on the following morning the remainder of the band came in. Among them were some very fine-looking men. The Chippewayans claimed that they were unwilling participators in Big Bear's proceedings, but were compelled to join

them. But the proverbial lying of an Indian prevents any credence being attached to what they say, especially where their personal safety is concerned. The weapons of the first batch who surrendered consisted of two Winchesters, three flint single guns, five percussion single guns, twelve double, and one breech-loader. The squaws and children came in with the second lot. The party, as a whole, were very dirty and repulsive-looking, and the thought would force itself upon one that, after many years of attempted civilisation and religious teaching, the only apparent result is that the race have acquired all the worst vices of the white man, retaining all the natural vices and villainies of the redskin. They seem to be a blot on the fair face of nature, and the sooner the Indian of the woods and prairies is a tradition the better. That this will come to pass appears inevitable, disease, hereditary and acquired, making heavy inroads among them, and combined with their extreme indolence, which frequently leaves them on the verge of starvation, all points to their coming extinction.

Strolling up to have a look at the prisoners, I happened to arrive just as some food had been given to them. This consisted of a tough-looking bannock, and the stomach and entrails of a bullock just killed; this they cut into strips, barely warmed and unwashed as it came from the animal, tore it in pieces with their teeth, and devoured it. As we had been living on canned meat the whole time, with hard tack, the meat

being only fibre from which all nourishment had been pressed out, the coming in of this band with a goodly herd of cattle, over forty head, was a welcome event to us all. These cattle had been supplied to them by Government, to encourage them in farming, as well as a large supply of agricultural machinery, but the result has been very unsatisfactory. Our commissariat officer soon took possession of the herd, and fresh meat for breakfast on Sunday the 14th of June made it a red-letter day. No sugar, potatoes, bacon, coffee, or salt were in store, and were it not for our good luck in finding flour, and an occasional beast, with this last grand coup of the Chippewayan herd, very short commons would have been our lot. Not that our supply officer was in any way to blame; the long distance from our base of supplies, and the absence of roads, made it very difficult to keep so many mouths supplied.

Various rumours reached our camp of the extremities Big Bear and his band were encountering. We followed them up so quickly that they had to abandon their waggons, carts, and plunder, and were only able to take packages of flour with them. We therefore felt sure that he would shortly give himself up. In the afternoon we heard of General Middleton's approach. He, after returning from Loon Lake, followed our trail to Beaver River. By that time fatigue parties had corduroyed all the bad places. He had with him about three hundred mounted men and two Gatling guns, and with him were our old comrades, Major

Steel and his scouts. A hearty, ringing cheer greeted this popular officer on his joining us once more. On the day of General Middleton's arrival, Colonel Osborne Smith, with a hundred of the Winnipeg Light Infantry, crossed the river on a scout to Cold Lake, taking with them six days' provisions. The Colonel was ordered to use his own discretion as to his future movements. Two companies of the regiment were employed in cutting through dense bush to a ford about forty miles distant, which it was supposed Big Bear was making for. Captain Constantine, the adjutant of the Winnipegs, and the well-known newspaper correspondent, George Ham, volunteered, guided by a Sioux Indian named George Beatty, to ascertain the bearings of this crossing, and, if possible, spy out Big Bear's movements. This was a plucky offer, for, independent of the dangers to be apprehended from marauding Indians, the mosquitoes in this low, marshy land were in millions. It was owing to information sent by Captain Constantine of his finding fresh tracks that General Strange decided on cutting a way through the bush. Until the 19th of the month there was nothing to disturb the monotony of camp life. On that evening a courier arrived with the welcome intelligence that all the prisoners in Big Bear's hands were on their way to Fort Pitt, under escort of the wood Indians of the Cree tribe. The surrounding hills echoed with the cheers given when this announcement was made to the troops.

Big Bear was so harassed by the rapidity with which Strange followed him up, that he and his band became demoralised. On hearing the news, General Middleton returned to Fort Pitt with all the men who accompanied him to Beaver River, with the exception of Steel's command. Strange's force was ordered to remain in camp at Beaver River and await further orders. Rumour reached us that Colonel Otter was in pursuit of Big Bear, and that General Middleton, who was evidently very anxious to be in at the death, would take steamer and head him off.

With the surrender of the M'Lean family, and the escape of the other prisoners, and the proven falsity of all the horrible rumours concerning them which had been so industriously circulated, the interest of the campaign died away. Had Big Bear and his band fallen into our hands while these reports were credited, I do not think man, woman, or child would have been spared.

I paid a visit to our detachment at Cold Lake, from where we had received some magnificent trout caught by La Touche Tupper, our quartermaster, who with paymaster Leacock accompanied Colonel Smith. These trout are very large, thirty and thirty-five pounds in weight, the flesh of a pale pink colour, and of a particularly delicate flavour. Pike are also numerous in the lake, and are quite different in flavour to the ordinary jackfish. Whether this is due to some peculiarity in the water, or to other causes, I cannot say. The lake

is over twenty miles in length, and about seventeen miles in width. It is surrounded by a sand and pebble beach, and its banks are thickly wooded with pines of large growth. It is a beautiful spot, and the surrounding country is magnificent pasture land, the peavine and vetch, and grasses on the 20th of June, covering the horses' knees. Everything that man could desire may be found in this favoured place, its sole population being a few Chippewayan Indians. The appearance of many of the young trees, being barked by rabbits not above half a foot from the ground, would show that the snowfall in winter cannot be very deep. If only a sufficient number of families would settle here so as to form a colony, and thus afford social intercourse, I know no more desirable place on the earth to settle in. The country will ere long be opened up by a railway, and this favoured region will be, no doubt, one day thickly inhabited.

Word came in that some of Big Bear's prisoners were in the hands of the wood Crees on an island situated in a lake about fifty miles off. Our orders were not to move, but the General sent Canon M'Kay, who is a thorough master of the Cree language, to demand their surrender. It was reported that this band had one of the prominent Indians engaged in the Frog Lake massacre, named Wandering Spirit, in their custody, and intended delivering him up. All were now anxiously expecting the Canon's return, which was timed for the day after. Changes of temperature

A SASKATCHEWAN STEAMER.

in this locality are very marked, ranging from 90° to 100° in the sun at midday, with a variation of often 30° at night. Canon M'Kay returned with the news that no other prisoners were held.

A courier was despatched to Cold Lake with orders for Colonel Smith to join as soon as possible. The Colonel arrived that evening, and on the following morning the force commenced the march back to Fort Pitt. The infantry marched as far as Frog Creek, arriving there at 10 P.M. in a downpour of rain. The evening was very sultry, and myriads of mosquitoes were on the wing, which made marching anything but pleasant. But orders were peremptory, so that we had to push on. At Frog Creek the good ship *North-West* was waiting for us under the command of that well-known Saskatchewan navigator, Captain Street. We made Pitt early next day, and pitched our camp in the garden of the fort.

Word had reached us before leaving Beaver River that forty lodges of Crees were ready to come in and surrender, and directions were sent to them to follow on to Fort Pitt. We found General Middleton camped on the hill above the fort. Under his immediate command were the 90th Winnipeg Rifles, the Midland, the Grenadiers, the Field Battery, Boulton's scouts, Dennis Intelligence Corps, and Brittleback's, late French scouts, and Mounted Police. General Strange's force consisted of the 91st Winnipeg Rifles, 65th Montreal Rifles, Steel's scouts, Hatton's scouts, and about

twelve men of the North-West Mounted Police under Captain Parry, in charge of gun. It will be many years before such a force will be again congregated at historic Pitt.

Rumours were rife that Big Bear was anxious to surrender, but was fearful of speedy despatch. We found Mr. M'Lean at Fort Pitt, looking none the worse for his Indian experiences.

We lay for several days at Pitt, the steamers *Princess*, *North-West*, and *Northcote*, with barges, being anchored in the river, waiting to transport the troops to Selkirk *viâ* the Saskatchewan and Lake Winnipeg. A very painful circumstance occurred while the forces were at Pitt, namely, the death of Colonel Williams, M.P., commanding the Midland battalion, who died of typhoid fever. The death of this gallant officer, who had greatly distinguished himself in the campaign, and was beloved by all, was a cause of great regret to the whole force. He died on board the steamer, and his remains were sent across country from Prince Albert to Battleford for removal by train to the east.

About two hundred men of the Winnipeg Light Infantry, with Colonel Smith in command, were left at Pitt to receive the surrender of the Crees. Big Bear had given himself up, and was now in prison at Prince Albert. While there, I was present at an interview which General Middleton had with him. One of his sons, an intelligent-looking lad of about sixteen years old, was keeping him company. Canon M'Kay acted

as interpreter. Big Bear did not appear to be much disturbed at what the General said to him, and on being told that he was a bad Indian, and would be punished for his conduct, answered only by the characteristic grunt. He was subsequently tried, and with Poundmaker was sentenced to a term of years in the penitentiary at Stony Mountain.

The Crees came in and surrendered to Colonel Smith; one of them, Wandering Spirit, the most turbulent of the chiefs, attempted to commit suicide, stabbing himself in the region of the heart with a butcher's knife. From this, however, he recovered. He was afterwards tried and convicted of active participation in the Frog Lake massacre, for which he was hung.

With the surrender of the Crees the rebellion terminated, and Colonel Smith returned with the Winnipeg Light Infantry to Winnipeg. This officer died while on a visit to his relations in England a few years after. There was never a campaign that did not give birth to some heart-burnings, and this one proved no exception. General Strange chafed a good deal under the tight check-string kept upon him, and he, as well as his whole command, were indignant at the fact of the despatches sent by him after the fight at Frenchman's Butte, and at the close of the campaign, to the Minister of Militia, through the General-in-Chief, never reaching that official; but time, the great healer of all troubles, has toned down these remembrances.

I had a splendid opportunity of forming an opinion

of the North-West on our chase after Big Bear, and knowing the difficulty that many thousands of willing workers find to earn a scanty subsistence in the over-populated centres of the old world, it seemed almost incredible to me that those millions of acres of splendid land, teeming with fertility, should remain still unoccupied, not even supporting the buffalo. The countless herds that recently roamed over the prairies were wantonly exterminated, until their species is now almost extinct. It is said their destruction was encouraged by Government on the ground that, while having so ready a supply of food, the Indians could never be induced to cultivate their land. Hundreds of thousands of these animals were slaughtered for their skins, aye, for their very tongues alone, and the exception, notwithstanding all the Government have done and are doing for them, is to meet an Indian who is endeavouring to support himself by manual labour. Droves of these animals might have been kept in certain districts under Government protection, and in this way congenial employment might have been found for many redskins, as well as retaining what might have been made a valuable source of revenue to the country. Regrets are, however, futile, and the wallows and trails are the only evidences left of these animals having existed, excepting the bleaching bones, which may be seen in immense piles at the various stations along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway waiting carriage to Eastern points. The buffalo have gone

HAY HARVEST.

and have left all the more room for the human species, who are incredibly slow in availing themselves of the heritage at their disposal. Along the banks of the Saskatchewan for hundreds of miles, around the towns of Edmonton, Calgary, Battleford, Prince Albert, and in the Beaver country, there are hundreds of thousands of acres awaiting the settler, not of barren land, but well timbered, well watered, and with a soil capable of producing in the greatest luxuriance whatever land can grow. I can only account for the extraordinary way in which this large tract of fertile country has failed to attract settlers in hundreds of thousands by the supposition that European people have been so long led to associate Eastern Canada, from the numerous pictorial representations, with regions of snow and ice, in fact, have been led to regard it as but one degree removed from the Arctic circle. This is not to be wondered at, as nearly every pictorial illustration of Canada depicts a winter scene, snow-shoeing, tobogganing, sleigh-driving, &c. Many look at these pictures, few read anything about the country. Hence the conclusion that if this is the normal condition of climate in Eastern Canada, what must the climate of the North-West be?—perpetual ice and snow at the best. How mistaken a conclusion! There is a longer continuance of fine warm weather throughout Canada than prevails in Great Britain. The cold is no doubt greater in winter, but every one who knows both climates readily admits that the dry bracing cold of Canada is far more

bearable, and can be more easily guarded against, than the damp, penetrating atmosphere so often to be found in the British Isles, and the farther north-west you go, the less is the snowfall and the climate is milder. Of course, during the winter months, which may be reckoned from the latter end of November to the beginning of March, there are occasional severe storms, but what country is free from them? The winter of '90 and '91 in England was far severer than in any portion of the Dominion. The through trains of the Canadian Pacific, running from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, ran throughout this long stretch of thousands of miles close on time. Such a contretemps as being snowed up was unknown. The majority of English settlers in the country prefer the winter months. Baron Munchausen stories have been written home by young "ne'er-do-weels" who have been sent out to Manitoba and the North-West with the expressed hope that something might come of them, what, the womb of the future would unfold, and it is from the pens of youths of this character that untrue descriptions of the country have appeared in old country papers. Canada can afford to do without this class: their migration from England and elsewhere is a gain to those countries; their immigration is a loss to Canada.

I am very far from trying to convey the notion that there are no drawbacks to settlement in this country, or that any one able to live in comfort in Europe should leave the luxuries of old world civilisation to come to

Canada. No. I address myself to those, single or married, who find the battle of life a difficult struggle, who are willing to work, and who do not expect to find everything ready to their hand on the virgin slopes of the Canadas, but who will labour to utilise the gifts which God has given them to the fullest advantage, appreciating those advantages and ignoring the little unpleasantnesses inseparable to all sublunary life, in one shape or another. For such a bright future, if not for himself, for his children, will crown his endeavours.

Some years ago, when I commenced to jot down an odd note, the country was far behind what it now is. The Canadian Pacific Railway was then only under construction from Winnipeg; now, this line not only traverses the whole of the North-West and British Columbia to the seaboard, but several branches in connection with it are completed, and others are building. The North-Western Railway has opened up an immense section of country. The Calgary and Edmonton Railway is fast constructing, and will open up the whole Saskatchewan country, as well as that magnificent district I have briefly described. The Northern Pacific has entered the province and runs through the district where I first settled, about six miles from the farm. I made a trip out there last summer in the comfortable cars of this company, reaching there in three hours. North of my old home is a branch of the Canadian Pacific, about nine miles distant. In fact the country

promises in the near future to be intersected with railways in all directions. This means a large increase in the value of land, increased value of farmers' products, and a ready facility for the disposal of them, as well as unlimited means of locomotion, in luxurious railway cars, for there is no railway in Great Britain that can begin to compare with the Canadian Pacific line for the comfort and conveniences afforded to their passengers.

Though the whole soil of Manitoba will grow cereals as luxuriantly as any soil in the world, and far more so than the greater part of it, there are portions of the province where climatic conditions appear to be more favourable for the cultivation of wheat than in other parts. A large area, known as the Portage Plains, is a vast wheat-growing centre, thousands of acres being cultivated there yearly. In the centre of this district is the corporate town of Portage La Prairie, a short time since a mere hamlet, now bidding fair to rapidly grow into a large city. There are three different railways now running into it, and it is a busy hive of industry. Land at present sells about here from ten to fifty dollars an acre.

The wheat district extends to Brandon, which is also fast growing in importance, vying with Portage La Prairie in the pretentiousness of its buildings and mercantile activity; well-to-do, even wealthy farmers abound in these districts, and many of them are in a fair way to realise large fortunes.

Along the picturesque country traversed by the

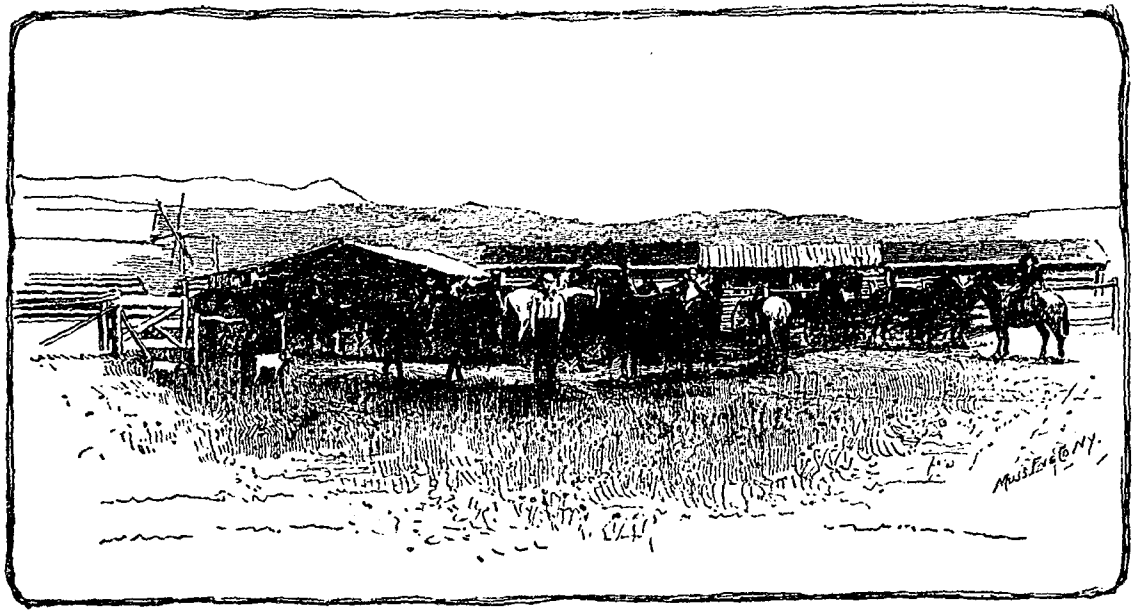
HARVESTING.

North-Western Railway, fine herds of cattle, in the pink of condition, may be seen from the railway carriage windows; smiling plenty covers the broad surface of the land. No doubt these settlers had all their troubles and trials, and probably often grievous ones to encounter; but they had the courage to grapple with them, the pluck to overcome them, and are now enjoying their victory. There is still abundant room for very many more, who will commence under much more comfortable surroundings than the pioneers enjoyed, but it is only the settler with means that should think of locating in these neighbourhoods. Any one with capital sufficient to purchase an improved farm with buildings on it, many of which are to be had at very reasonable prices, escapes all the pioneer's trouble, and his capital affords him an immediate return.

There is no country that I know of that is more suitable for military and naval men, who, under the existing regulations, are retired from the services in the vigour of their manhood. Many of them have large families, and their reduced income renders it difficult for them to enjoy the same kind of life they have been so long accustomed to; but in Manitoba and the North-West, with an income barely sufficient for genteel support in England, they would find themselves, when settled on a farm here, surrounded by every reasonable comfort, and in a position to make comfortable provision for their families. The want of congenial society may be brought forward as a great

drawback, but this is easily obviated by four or six families locating near each other, which would make them independent of all other society. Once settled on the farms, all they would be required to purchase would be clothes and groceries; the latter can be obtained in exchange for eggs, poultry, butter, &c., so that in a short time a straitened income, with difficulty made to make both ends meet in the old countries, would here soon place the settler in comparative affluence.

Farming on a gigantic scale by companies, and the almost inevitable failures attending the experiment, has no doubt injured the North-West in the opinion of many, debiting to the country and climate the failure which is rightly attributable to inexperience, mismanagement, and lavish and unnecessary expenditure on the part of those who were entrusted with the management. Though having unshaken faith in the success of farming in this country, I would not invest a cent, no matter what capital I had lying idle, in these joint-stock company farms. There is a far safer and more profitable way for any one desirous of investing money in agricultural pursuits. Let the capitalist purchase farms of from 160 to 640 acres in different districts, build on each farm the necessary buildings, place on it the necessary stock and machinery, retaining the whole as his absolute property, and then place on the several farms families which he has pitched upon in the old country to carry on the work of the



A RANCH.

farm, sharing with them equally the produce returned. I believe no investment open for the employment of capital in the present day would secure a better return without the possibility of loss. Of course, due care should be taken that the proper class of men would be placed in charge, but there could be little difficulty of finding, in the country districts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, many eligible persons who would gladly embrace such an offer. While the farmer on his 160 acres, a quarter section, is getting on successfully, in many instances on very insufficient means, the company's farm, with an unsparing expenditure, is daily getting behindhand, and the shareholders at last, tired of paying out money for which they never get any return, close down the business. Frequently as this programme has been gone through in the North-West, we yearly hear of one or more of these wild speculations entered into.

Ranching is different. With ordinary luck the animals reared on the ranches produce annual returns, so that a fairly proximate income may be looked for, and the expenses attending the carrying on of a ranch may be more readily estimated than those of a farm, subject to the caprice, and oftentimes inexperience of the factor in charge, or, to use a more high-sounding title, the managing director.

Breeding a good class of horses suitable for cavalry and harness purposes promises to be a very paying industry, as the country is well adapted for their

breeding. A large number of horses are raised on the ranches in the Alberta district, where good three- and four-year-olds can be purchased for a hundred and fifty dollars, about thirty pounds English money. A British Cavalry Commission visited these ranches and purchased several animals, and it was understood reported very favourably, but it has not led to any large transactions. Conspicuous branding on the animals is a drawback to their sale in England; but some other than a permanent mark might be impressed on them yearly after shedding their coats, which would be sufficient for purposes of identification. Patches of various coloured dyes might with advantage be substituted for the present practice. A large number of ponies are bred in Montana, useful hardy animals, almost impossible to tire out; these can be purchased at a very low price.

The long inland journey to a port is the main difficulty in the export of animals to Europe, but with the Hudson's Bay Railway built, which is now a burning question in Manitoba and the North-West, if even the ocean passage were only open for two months in the year, it would give an immense impetus to all industries, but the information received all points to the fact that Hudson's Bay is navigable to the open sea for at least twice that number of months out of the twelve. With such a comparatively close seaboard, the millions of acres of pasture land capable of fattening and keeping a beast in condition all the year round, would gradually

become stocked, and the meat supply for the teeming millions of Great Britain would for all time be assured.

In Manitoba the cattle, as a rule, are better for being housed in the winter, or provided with good shelter. They also require provender, which, with the exception of a few districts and very exceptional years, is so easily secured in summer from the luxuriant natural grasses of the prairies, that no difficulty arises from this. There are a few districts where hay is difficult of getting, but a few acres of late sown oats cut green, and treated in the same manner as grass, makes splendid feed. This can be grown in any part of the country with the crudest possible cultivation, so that winter food supply is always readily obtainable.

Sheep do well, and stand the cold winter weather bravely. Few countries can grow roots to compare with Manitoba and North-West products. All that is needed is a good frost-proof root-house to successfully carry on sheep-farming, the animal, not like the Australian, which are comparatively useless for food, there can be turned out in Manitoba and the North-West as good mutton as on the Salisbury Plains. The Shropshire Downs and Border Leicesters seem to be the favourite breeds; but, like the varieties of grain and plants, there has been little endeavour to find out the particular breed most suitable to the climate. Cereals are sown, and live stock placed on the land with no scientific data as to their being the most suitable. More attention is now being paid to this very important subject. The

grain which matures in the shortest time after sowing is that which the farmers of this country should adopt. The climate will soon impart to it that hardness which the millers require, and if it be absolutely necessary for them to have the hard Red Fyfe variety, let the price paid for it be commensurate with the risk taken in growing it. Many of the farmers of Manitoba have been almost ruined by devoting themselves exclusively to its production. The country is especially adapted for mixed farming, and when properly carried out it cannot fail to be remunerative.

Cheese and butter of first-rate quality can be made from cattle having no other feed than the natural grass, but the method of production is generally of a primitive description, greater attention being given to the quantity rather than to the quality produced. Improper places for storage, both on the producer's part and the local merchants', prevail. The tubs are placed in cellars with all manner of vegetables and other matters lying alongside, which makes it, by the time it gets to the retailer, anything but a first-class article, and to strangers it must convey a very erroneous impression. As good butter can be made in Manitoba as is to be found in the London market, the choicest productions of Normandy and Belgium.

Farming, to carry it out successfully, is a science, and with few exceptions it has been carried out hitherto in this country in a very unscientific manner. The majority of those who have settled here have not been

RANCH HOMESTEAD.

farmers, and though many, in spite of their ignorance of agricultural matters, have, in consequence of the unusually favourable surroundings, done well, many others have been led astray by the magnitude of the farms they had so easily acquired, and though they would probably have been very successful if farming a few acres, they became demoralised, exaggerating the value of their possessions, and, underrating the effect of inauspicious seasons and other possible ills that affect a farmer's profits, they incurred unjustifiable liabilities. A man for $10 enters on the possession of 160 acres of land, and for $320 a further 160 acres. Very probably this settler would have considered himself a large farmer with 30 acres of land in the old countries, and for which he would pay a smart rent; here he has over ten times as much practically given to him in perpetuity: can any one be surprised that under these circumstances he forms an exalted idea of his pecuniary position, and feels it impossible that he can ever see a poor day again. He sets to work with a will, builds a shanty, and breaks up as much land as he can, sows his crop, which looks promising, when around comes the local agricultural machinery agent, and the following colloquy, or something very like it, takes place. "Well, Jack, Sandy, Pat," or whatever Christian name is most significant of his nationality, "I guess you are going to have a fine crop. You'll want a reaper to take it off." Settler: "I'll try and do without it another year," feeling that with the small crop he

has in, no farmer in Great Britain would dream of purchasing expensive machinery to harvest it. But the persuasive powers of the agent prevail, and eventually an outfit of expensive agricultural machinery is ordered and paid for by notes, which the settler is assured, if he cannot meet, will be renewed as often as necessary, these notes generally bearing from eight to ten per cent. interest. The crops turn out indifferently and the interest goes on accumulating, until the settler receives the patent for his homestead, and is in a position to acquire his pre-emption; then the screw is turned on, and the local agent of the loan company appears on the scene. He knows pretty nearly the farmer's liabilities, and undertakes to lend him so much at eight per cent. or perhaps more. Frequently the amount, at the advice of the loan agent, is some hundreds of dollars beyond what the farmer wants to pay his debts. It generally requires but little persuasion to induce him to accept this, which he hopes to employ profitably on the farm; and he now starts again clear of debt, with the exception of a mortgage on his land, bearing eight or ten per cent. interest. His operations do not turn out as successfully as he expects; after a payment or two of interest money, he falls into arrears, law proceedings follow, and in disgust, if foreclosure is not made, he throws up the farm to the loan company, and leaves, a sadder, if not a wiser man. Had he closed his ears to the local machine man in the first instance, and contented himself with cultivating only

as much land as, with his available manual labour, he could properly work, buying no machinery until he could pay ready money for it, but plodding along quietly, the chances were all in his favour of making a great success; and while many have done so, on the other hand, the loan companies and money-lenders own a large proportion of the once settled lands of Manitoba, which they hold for speculation at a very considerable advance on what they obtained them for, and this to the detriment of the surrounding settlers. It seems a difficult point to grapple with, but if extra taxation could be placed on these lands held by speculators and loan companies, it would be an advantage to the entire community.

The ruin of many settlers who have started under very fair auspices is due to a too eager desire to get rich, and incurring liabilities for which they are dependent on the success of their farming operations to discharge. True, it may be for the purposes of the farm that these were incurred, but in nineteen out of every twenty cases it has proved to be a very mistaken policy, and has been the cause, and only cause, of the failure of many who unjustly blame the climate for their own errors of judgment. If a farmer is free from debts, is owner of his land, even if frost does damage his wheat, so as to unfit it for market, a great proportion of it will make first-rate food for his cattle, pigs, and poultry, and if given to them will return, in the meat it produces, very probably a greater profit than he would

have made by the sale of good grain to the merchants. The most successful farmers in the old country are those who consume the whole of their farm produce in the growing and fattening of live stock on the farm, disposing of nothing else, and in no part of Great Britain can this method of farming be carried on more successfully and at less cost than it can in the Province of Manitoba. Expensive fertilisers are required for the production of all crops in Great Britain; here, for many years, the prolific soil will require no stimulant; but, if wheat farming be the sole object, I believe manuring is advantageous after the first breaking. It warms the soil and forwards the germinating grain. The winter frosts penetrate to a great depth, and if the natural fall rains have taken place, its advent finds the soil pretty moist, holding it fast until the hot spring and summer suns unlock it and draw it up by rapid evaporation, which keeps the surface soil cold and somewhat retards the grain growth, while, on the other hand, it, in seasons of drought, supplies the requisite root moisture.

There is yet much to learn how to most successfully grow wheat and other cereals in this country, but no doubt the problem will in time be solved. Drainage, cultivation, and settlement, with tree culture, which the Government encourages, will in time check, if it does not entirely banish, the early August frosts, which have for the last few years worked such havoc with the wheat crop in many parts of the province.

IMPROVED FARM-HOUSE.

WINNIPEG.

No notes on Manitoba would be complete without prominent consideration of the Prairie City, with its unrivalled position at the confluence of two mighty rivers, and which now presents a very different appearance from that which it wore on my first introduction to it thirteen years ago. Brief allusion has been made to the hotel accommodation then existing; now, though the resident population is some 30,000 and the transient largely in excess of what it then was, the number of hotels have outstripped the requirements. There are many fine buildings replete with all modern comforts devoted to this purpose, and there is now completed a monster erection of seven stories containing some hundreds of rooms, all furnished in the most expensive style, fitted throughout with every appliance for the comfort of the guests, the property of the Northern Pacific Railway, and built on the city terminus of their line, with which it is connected, and will no doubt be largely patronised by travellers on this route to the North-West.

Many imposing public and private structures have been built which would be an ornament to any city in the world. The Government buildings are very handsome. Three bridges span the rivers, and two more are about to be built. Trains from all directions run

into the city, though there are at present only two termini. Business houses, wholesale and retail, abound. There is a large opera-house, and the building of another is contemplated. A military school has been formed at Fort Osborne, with a lieutenant-colonel, commandant and staff, and about one hundred mounted infantry. Officers of the local militia can here qualify instead of being obliged as heretofore to go to the Eastern Schools.

The city is lit by electric light, the houses by incandescent light. There is a telephone service, and the streets are traversed by tramcars, the motive-power of the future for them to be electricity. There is a very handsome City Hall, with Mayor and Corporation. The University of Manitoba and St. John's College are situated at the north end of the town, on the banks of the Red River, the Chancellor of the University being the Metropolitan of Rupert's Land, who resides at Bishop's Court, in the immediate vicinity of the College, and takes an active interest in the education of the pupils. The University is not a teaching body, and has hitherto acted in connection with several colleges, under a joint system; but it is generally considered that the time has now arrived when the University should become an educational institution, and not be, as at present, a mere conferrer of degrees. Difficulties lay in the way with regard to the rights of the existing colleges, and it is probable that the extended rôle of the University will operate somewhat hardly upon them; but it is

for the public good, and in the interest of higher education, so that private interests must be sacrificed for the general weal. These colleges have done good work in the past, and in any future arrangement their professors may be absorbed into the teaching body of the University.

A thriving Medical College has been established, and at the present session there are over fifty students. An excellent medical and surgical education can be had in Winnipeg, the Winnipeg General Hospital, which is the centre for treatment to the whole North-West, providing the means of acquiring a practical knowledge of medicine and surgery in its generally crowded wards. There is a maternity charity in connection with it. A large hospital has been built at the St. Boniface side of the river, and is under the charge of the Sisters. To this hospital there is no medical staff, but it is largely utilised by medical men for their private patients. Many of the graduates educated at the Manitoba Medical College have taken the degrees and diplomas of European universities and colleges with great credit. While the curriculum embraces all the subjects necessary in the colleges of Europe, and extends over a period of four years, the entire expense is much under what a professional education would cost in any other place. The University grants the degree of M.D. and M.C. This College is likely to attract a large number of students in the future. It must not, however, be taken that I consider the management of either college

or hospital as by any means perfect. Very far from it. As infant institutions they are excellent, but require some sweeping reforms in their machinery before they can expect to rank with similar institutions in other places. Both college and hospital are worked on narrow lines—the professional promoters of both, who naturally gravitated into the various positions in connection with them, jealously excluding any professional man likely to compete with them. Thus all vacancies are filled from the students, who blossom, in two or three months after passing, into full-fledged professors. The argument would seem to be—the country is young, the institutions are young; *ergo*, the professors must be young also. But time will prove the mistake of the deduction, and a wiser system in the interests of college and hospital will prevail.

The law has complete machinery for turning out attorneys and barristers, and to judge by the large number who embrace it, and wear such a successful appearance, the profession here must be a very lucrative one. A chief justice and three judges hold court in Winnipeg, also County Court judges and stipendiary magistrates.

There are five Episcopalian churches, besides several Presbyterian and Methodist places of worship, and two Jewish synagogues. At St. Boniface, a part of Winnipeg, there is a large Roman Catholic cathedral, close to which is the residence of Archbishop Tache. In the centre of the city is a large Roman Catholic church,

WINNIPEG.

St. Mary's. There are two convents, and the Sisters keep schools, which are well attended and much appreciated.

Winnipeg returns one member to the Dominion House and two to the local Legislature. The head of the Government is the Lieutenant-Governor, who is appointed by the Government of Canada. He has a handsome residence, and receives between salary and allowance an income of about fifteen thousand dollars a year. The appointment is held for five years. If this position were given to men who, instead of economising the salary during their term of office—it generally being the last acknowledgment given by the Government in power to their party supporters—to one who was in a financial position to keep up the dignity of the office, and supplement the expenditure of the salary attached to it by a liberal addition from his private resources, the position would carry much greater weight and would be of far greater utility. There are many influential persons in the United Kingdom who would willingly take the Lieut.-Governorship of Manitoba for five years, and whose residence in Winnipeg would be of great advantage to the trade of the city, not alone by the income they would certainly expend, but by the friends that would be induced to visit his Honour during his term of office; and as the appointment would still rest with the Dominion Government, Canadians could take no umbrage at it. The objections ought only to be made by those looking forward to the ornamental

position and its emoluments. All others must acknowledge the advantage of having a man of rank and means at the head of the Government of the province, and more especially the merchants and tradesmen of Winnipeg. By these remarks it must not be supposed that I cast the slightest reflection on those gentlemen who have filled this important position so ably. Indeed, I feel sure they would one and all agree with me that a Lieut.-Governor with a large private income occupying Government House in this city would be a boon to Winnipeg, and if selected from among the English nobility would draw us still closer to the mother country, and when the great military road provided by the Canadian Pacific Railway is utilised by the home authorities for the transportation of troops to the southern dependencies of Great Britain, an influential Englishman at the head of the provincial Government might be an extra inducement for making this city a headquarters for British troops, the pecuniary value of which to Winnipeg would be very great.

The markets are well supplied with meat and fish, the latter chiefly coming from the Pacific coast. Both are retailed at a considerably less cost than in London. Vegetables are, comparatively speaking, scarce—an evidence of the want of enterprise, as land can be had for a mere song to rent close to the city, capable of growing any amount, all that is required being a proper cellar to keep them during the cold weather. A winter supply of vegetables is a much-felt want, and any one

undertaking it properly would be certain of a handsome return for his trouble.

Chief among the employers of labour is the Canadian Pacific Railway, who in their shops and premises in Winnipeg give employment to six or seven hundred hands. The chief repairing for the western division is done in the Winnipeg shops, and with their vast rolling stock some idea of the magnitude of the work may be formed. There are also ironworks carried on by a private firm. A colossal flour-mill belonging to the Messrs. Ogilvie is kept constantly running, which with their grain and wholesale business employs a large number. There are several saw-mills, and the demand for lumber, both in the city and at outside points, is generally brisk. A woollen-mill, which promises to be a great success, has lately been established at St. Boniface, and is turning out excellent work, which will be a boon, for clothing material as a rule is dear and bad.

There are abundant openings for many other industries, and the projected water-power canal, if carried out, would give a great impetus in this direction; but unfortunately the city fathers are not in accord on the matter, and have succeeded in delaying the prosecution of the work for a period of nearly two years. Many a growl of dissatisfaction is expressed at this, but the bark here is not often followed by the bite. The deepening of the channel of the river to Selkirk is spoken of. This would enable timber to be brought up to Winnipeg direct from the lake.

There is no lack of amusement in the city—cricket, football, lacrosse, and baseball having all their votaries. There is a rowing club, which has gathered the laurels from our cousins over the border, and who would prove no mean antagonists to the Oxonians and Light Blues, with whom they will probably some day join issue. Races are held twice a year, and attract a good number of the sporting fraternity. The race track is about three miles from the city, belongs to a company, and is carefully kept. There are running and hurdle races, but the chief interest centres in the trotting-matches, over which considerable sums of money change hands. Balls are frequent in the winter, when tobogganing and skating carnivals are the order of the day.

The social life of Winnipeg is somewhat peculiar. Ostensibly democratic in their ideas, there is a hidden desire to be thought better than one's neighbour in the social scale, and the inhabitants are split up into coteries. There are no shops, they are all stores. The shop-keeper is a merchant, the shop-boy a clerk. At the head of this community stands the retail establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company, where dry goods and groceries of all kinds can be purchased. But here the designations are more high-sounding, the gentleman presiding behind the grocery being the assistant to the commissioner in the grocery department, his opposite colleague being assistant to the commissioner in the boot and shoe division, and so on through this admirable and well-ordered establishment, which commands

A LONDONER SAWING WOOD.

a large trade from the general excellence of the articles sold there; but one cannot help feeling, when making purchases, that you are being waited on by the very salt of the earth in the retail line. Nowhere can you receive greater civility, or from no body of employees more attention; but, when accustomed to plain shop and shop assistant, these high-sounding titles rather grate on one's ear.

Whatever may be said to the contrary, the inhabitants of the West love titles as much if not more than their Eastern hemisphere brethren. A minister of the local Legislature is entitled by custom to the prefix of Honourable, which he of course ought to drop with his office; but, as a rule, it is clung to with the tenacity of the octopus, and consequently the prefix rather provokes contempt and ridicule. It is said this is a land where Jack is as good as his master; but, somehow, a great many consider themselves masters, and look down on Jack. However, it is occasionally somewhat awkwardly asserted, namely, when the servant coolly informs her mistress that, unless she comes and helps her at the wash-tub, or cooking-stove, she won't work any more; and the poor mistress, in terror at being left without help, has to obey her maid with socialistic inclinations.

On the subject of servants there is much to be said. The chief servant supply is from Icelandic and German nationalities. They arrive here not knowing a word of the language, and almost entirely ignorant of domestic

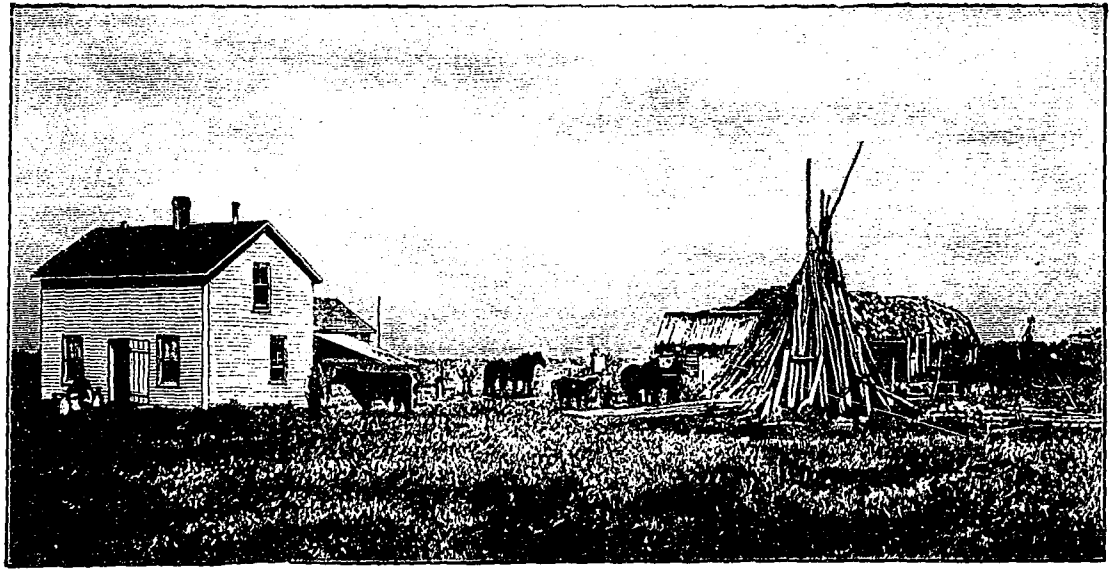
duties. The immigration agents instil into them that they are to take no service under a wage of probably quadruple the sum they could earn in their own country. However, they are better than nothing, and are hired. After much trouble in teaching, and putting up with endless inconvenience from their ignorance of English, and when getting a little into the ways of the house, generally, at the instigation of some acquaintance, they become restless, and desire to leave; they take another place and carry out the same programme, not caring to what inconvenience they subject their employers. The wages given are, to commence with, usually from eight to twenty dollars a month, at the rate of from about twenty to fifty pounds a year. If persons interested in obtaining places for servants in England knew that hundreds of general servants could find immediate employment at these wages, without undergoing a microscopical scrutiny as to their past lives, a difficulty which they have to encounter in the old country may readily be overcome, places will be easily found for them before they leave the shores of England, so that there will be no waiting on arrival here to look for a situation.

One advertisement in a Winnipeg paper stating that a hundred servant women were ready to take service in Manitoba, and asking for applications stating duties and wages, would meet with such a response as to encourage its repetition. One great mistake the ladies of Winnipeg at present make is taking servants who have

lived in this country in other situations without receiving a character from their last place. If the rule of requiring characters was strictly observed, ladies would not be so much at the mercy of their servants, and the wandering spirits would soon find a difficulty in finding situations. At present hardly a question is asked as to antecedents when the wages point has been satisfactorily arranged, simply because the supply is not at all equal to the demand, and in the absence of help, the work of the house devolves on the female inmate or inmates. From London alone a large contingent of servants might migrate to this country, and by so doing better their position in every respect, and, if matrimonially inclined, have a brighter prospect of securing an eligible life-partner here than they would in the old country. I hope these remarks may fall under the observation of some of those ladies interested in finding positions for young women compelled to earn their bread. Many lady helps have come out to Manitoba and the North-West. I have met several who have all expressed their satisfaction at having come out here, much preferring the life to that of a governess at home. Of course there are menial duties to perform, but the mistress of the house generally takes her share of them, and if the lady help be a sensible girl, making the best of the situation, she soon becomes one of the family, and secures a happy home for herself in this new and promising land.

There are several public banking establishments in

the city, and three or four private ones. The trading community have every facility afforded them of obtaining funds for business purposes; indeed, the many failures that have occurred, truly or not, are by many ascribed to the readiness with which money is advanced to traders. Were a farmer to enter one of these institutions to seek an advance, an antediluvian animal entering the sacred precincts would not be regarded with greater astonishment by the banker and his satellites, though their whole business depends on the success of the farming community, and their returns are dependent on good or bad seasons. There are certain times of the year when farmers may require accommodation for a few months, certain to have sufficient to meet any reasonable liabilities they may require to incur; but banks here are not intended for their benefit, and they must either go without or get into the hands of the usurer, a *genus homo* abounding in the North-West. There are so-called private banks in town and country that do business for the moderate percentage of from four to five per cent. per month, and upwards. At their heads are Christian Jews, not the "Simon pure" Shylock, but his first-class double. The sound advice which bids one to ware them in the old lands, equally applies to this genus to be met with in the land of the setting sun. There can be no doubt that agricultural operations, cattle-dealing, and kindred industries are crippled by the absence of bank accommodation. But the profits attaching to them would be more



PRAIRIE FARM-HOUSE.

than swallowed by the rapacious money-lender, if compelled to resort to him. An agricultural bank that would deal with the farmers, and afford them reasonable assistance when required, would be certain of success, and many who have had to abandon their farms would now be thriving agriculturists, had they been able to secure accommodation in the time of their need, and for which they could have given security. Their charter preventing banks having dealings in real estate is given as the cause of this universal rule among these institutions here. But one can hardly accept this as an explanation for it, as in England, Scotland, and Ireland bank accommodation is very far from being tabooed to the farming class. The farmers in this country are in great need of a bank that will recognise them as customers, and there is a very profitable field for the establishment of one, with head-quarters in Winnipeg, and branches throughout the province. There is also a Dominion and Private Savings Bank. The former is largely patronised, the latter is a recent institution.

Divinity, law, and physic have numerous followers. The professions are no doubt overdone, many hanging on, hoping for a rapid increase in the population, by immigration setting into the city and surrounding country. There appears to me to be too eager a desire for professional life. The rich men of this country will be the descendants of those farmers who are now tilling its fertile soil. Taking up and cultivating a portion of

the enormous tract of virgin country awaiting man's occupancy will surely lead to comfort and competency in the future, while professional life at its best is a thorny path beset with many difficulties, and any great measure of success is vouchsafed to only a minimum number. The health and freedom enjoyed by one occupation does not admit of comparison with the other. Agriculturists, no doubt, have their days of trouble and periods of anxiety; but perseverance and prudence is bound to triumph in the end, which cannot be guaranteed in professional life. Land may be purchased close to the city of Winnipeg for from five to twenty dollars per acre; the latter improved land, fenced, and with tolerable buildings on it. There is a ready sale for everything the farmer can produce in the Winnipeg market, yet it is very difficult to get good butter; cream cheese is never seen; eggs, except in the spring, are scarce, and contain much chicken meat. Vegetables, as before mentioned, are scarce, and the supply of poultry of all kinds is not nearly equal to the demand, so that they have to be brought in from Chicago and Eastern Canada. Hams and bacon cured in the province are almost unknown, and it is the same with many other articles of daily consumption, which can be produced quite as good and at less cost in the country, but at the present time have to be imported from the East. If some of the market gardeners and dairy farm-keepers, so thickly congregated around English cities and towns where competi-

tion makes it an incessant labour to earn a livelihood, would but transfer themselves and their capital to this country, their energy would find a more ample and easily-earned reward. Land can be rented close to the city at merely nominal prices.

There are two breweries, one belonging to E. L. Drewry, an extensive establishment, where very superior ale, porter, and lager beer is brewed. The excellence of the liquors turned out at this, "The Redwood Brewery," have commanded for its produce a large sale outside as well as throughout the province. There is a good opening for a distillery. Barley, with ordinary care, can be grown in the province to compete with any similar grain in the world. There is no chance of its being touched with frost, as, if got in at the right time, it will be harvested before there is any danger from this cause. This grain is at present, as a rule, cultivated in a very slovenly manner. Sown after all the rest of the crop is in, and ripening during the hay harvest when farmers are busy, it is cut down, and oftener than otherwise is allowed to remain on the ground, and not even stooked, until a leisure day enables the farmer to draw it in. Growers of barley can well imagine the appearance of this grain when threshed; but, as it is generally grown for home consumption, for feed, the colour of the grain is not an object. During the late years of early frosts, barley would have been a more certain crop than Red Fyfe wheat; and at the price paid for the latter, even that

graded No. 1 hard, it would have proved, if properly cultivated and harvested, more remunerative. A distillery would be an incentive to its cultivation, and malt, which is now all imported into the province, would be manufactured.

Flax grows luxuriantly, but twine, large quantities of which are required in harvesting operations, is imported chiefly from the United States, the carriage and duty making it expensive to the farmer. It is grown altogether for the seed. There is but one crushing-mill in the province, belonging to a Winnipeg firm, and this one is at work for only a small part of the year.

There are several oatmeal mills, which supply the local demand. It is said that poplar bark is well adapted for making paper, but, though any amount of it can be readily obtained, no manufactory of the kind has been started.

In Winnipeg, beef by the quarter may be purchased for five cents per pound, cuts from ten to fifteen cents; this is also the general price prevailing for poultry. Potatoes retail for from twenty-five to fifty cents per bushel, according to the time of the year.

Fuel is expensive, hard coal costing ten dollars a ton, over two pounds English; soft, eight dollars; and wood ranges from four dollars to six dollars per cord. Coal is sure to be much cheaper when the valuable seams existing in this province and the North-West are worked. Railways are in course of construction to these fields, and it is not improbable that

good coal will ere long be obtainable at from three to four dollars a ton, perhaps for less.

Of fish there is, as a rule, a good supply, generally coming from the Pacific coast. Salmon sells at from fifteen to twenty cents a pound. The fish is inferior to that caught on the coasts and in the rivers of Great Britain, after allowing for its deterioration in the long land journey before reaching Winnipeg. The flesh is much redder, and to those accustomed to the rich, pink, curdy salmon caught in the rivers of Ireland and Scotland, loses by comparison. Herrings, smelt, and cod-fish are very reasonable in price, and the rivers and lakes of Manitoba, aggregating some 30,000 square miles of fishing-ground, furnish very fine delicate-flavoured trout and whitefish. Sturgeon, gold eyes, pike, and suckers are abundant. Last year 4,600,000 lbs. weight of trout and whitefish were exported.

To the speculator and investor, Winnipeg and its vicinity presents a rich field, which many have availed themselves of to their great advantage. The growth of the city is steadily and soundly progressive, the fictitious values of the boom have long since passed away, and for safe and remunerative investments few cities in the world afford better opportunities. Real estate is steadily increasing in value, the commerce and importance of the city is yearly progressing, and though Winnipeg may not spring into the gigantic proportions of Chicago with the same rapidity, that in time she will attain to it there can be little doubt. It

is the distributing point for a country containing hundreds of millions of acres, situated at the confluence of two noble rivers, increasing yearly in volume, which for a comparatively small outlay can be made entirely navigable into the great lakes with which they are connected—a possible and practicable waterway of the future, extending from the city of Winnipeg to Rocky Mountain House on the shores of the great Saskatchewan, one hundred and fifty miles above Edmonton. That the future will see this an accomplished fact few would deny. Those who know the country recognise the almost limitless possibilities of the greatness to which it may attain, and what to many would now appear as the dreamings of romance will in time become the realisation of the future. As the country develops, so must the city of Winnipeg advance. Other and important cities are springing up in this immense domain, but the outcome of Old Fort Garry will hold its own as the gateway and capital of the great North-West.

Since residing here I have known several who have gone to other lands; dissatisfied with their prospects here, some returned to Europe, some wandered to Africa and Australia, but almost every one of them returned here, experience proving to them that the future was brighter, and present ills more bearable, in this vigorous young city, than in other parts of the world. Commercial depression, scarcity of employment, and a straitened currency is occasionally felt

PICNIC.

here, as in all other places; but the exhilarating climate, the prevailing bright sunshine, and the abounding evidences of rapid progress, recognisable on all sides, counteract desponding influences. And those ills which, among other surroundings, so frequently lead to sad results, are here cast off as evanescent troubles, to be soon overcome and forgotten.

GAME.

Though not one solitary specimen remains to represent the once countless herds of buffalo which roamed over the prairies of the North-West, there is still a fair head of various game to tempt the sportsman. The moose, cariboo, elk, jumping deer, black and cinnamon bears, lynx, wolverine, timber and prairie wolf, fox, beaver, and smaller animals are fairly plentiful, and if the laws are strictly enforced as to the close seasons for the various species, they will become more abundant. More especially must be guarded against a too sentimental feeling as to the rights of the redskins to shoot at all times and seasons for sustenance on their preserves. This privilege they have grossly abused, killing animals heavy with young outside their limits for the mere love of destruction, as neither their flesh nor pelt is then of any value. As the Government feed the Indians, so should they strictly enforce game laws. A herd of buffalo might with advantage have been kept

on each reserve, which would not only have preserved this valuable animal, but would have provided food for each of the bands, as well as occupation in properly herding them. Regulations which govern them in other matters could have been made as to the number of live animals they should at all times be able to produce. The Dominion Government have shown a strange disregard to the preservation of the buffalo. It is to be hoped the local governments may not act in a similar spirit towards the other wild animals of the country.

Of the feathered tribe, there are the prairie chicken, or, more properly, the grouse, an excellent bird for the table; the partridge, very unlike the English bird in habits, as, when disturbed in the bush, they always perch on some adjacent tree, and you may shoot three or four on the same branch, one after the other, the report of the gun not disturbing them. You must, however, select the lowest perched bird first. I have myself in this way killed three—an unsportsmanlike proceeding, some will exclaim. My excuse is I was shooting for the pot. These, with snowbirds, are permanent dwellers in the land. Of migrating game we have geese, duck, widgeon, snipe, plover, and the sand-hill crane, when properly cooked a very appetising morsel. There are a host of small birds, from the falcon to the humming-bird. I have watched several of the latter skimming around the apple-blossoms in my garden. The ubiquitous swallow finds this a well-stocked hunting-ground.

The myriads of mosquitoes are preyed upon by them as well as by the night-hawk, and a large kind of dragon-fly called the mosquito-hawk. Though they must devour vast quantities of the pests, their numbers do not appear to diminish. I must not forget to mention what are known here as rabbits, though they live above ground, and more resemble the English hare. At times the underwood swarms with these animals, their fur turning white in the winter months. A couple of guns can, in a short time, bag a hundred of them. Their flesh is excellent. A curious fact in connection with them is, that every seven years they almost die out. They may then be found around the bluffs dead in hundreds, and when the disease which carries them off appears among them, the Indians cease to use them as food. They are very scarce for two or three years after this periodical epidemic appears amongst them, but they rapidly increase again up to the seventh year, when this disease again devastates them. If some scientific searcher could discover the cause of this recurring mortality, and find it to be communicable to the species elsewhere, he would be entitled to the large reward offered by the Government of Australia for information which would lead to the extermination of the animals there, which have increased so rapidly as to cause serious mischief.

Wolves afford very good sport for the huntsmen, and both in Manitoba and the Territories there are packs of hounds kept for this purpose, which give a

good account of both fox and wolf. The latter give capital runs.

Valuable medicinal herbs abound on the prairies and in the woods. The Indians and half-breeds collect large quantities of senega or snake-root, tons of which are annually sent out of the country, chiefly to the United States. There are many other herbs of equal value, but as yet they have not been sought for. There are also many kinds of wild flowers indigenous to the soil, brilliant of hue, but, with the exception of the dog-rose, which grows in great profusion, are generally without perfume. The well-known flower-seeds, mignonette, sweet pea, &c., do well; indeed, all annuals that can be grown in England will here grow luxuriantly; but perennials, as a rule, perish in the severe winter frosts, though, if well covered over with manure, they might withstand it. One sadly misses the sweet-smelling flowers and glorious roses of old England, the climbing ivy, and many-hued scented creepers; but, if the nostrils are not regaled, vision is abundantly favoured by the bewildering beauty of the woods and prairies. In the fall of the year, words cannot describe, or painter's brush limn, the gorgeous masses and variety of shades of colouring which the eye can then feast on. This sublime loveliness, born of decay, must be seen to be appreciated.

Hops grow most luxuriantly in the woods, and in their wild state would compare favourably with the cultivated plant around the valleys of Kent and Essex.

A CRACK AT THE GEESE.

No attempt to cultivate them has yet been made, but, no doubt, attention will be soon directed to it, as if so luxuriantly growing in the wild state, their culture would no doubt prove very profitable, and, in comparison with what is requisite in England and elsewhere for their propagation, it would be attended with but trifling expense, all that would be necessary being to judiciously thin out a poplar bluff, leaving good protection on the verge, and set the plants at the roots of each standing tree, when for years they would require no further attention.

Raspberries, quite as large as the English garden raspberry, are in great profusion; plums of fair size are plentiful. The cranberry, bluberry, and saskatoon berries are very abundant, and the small wild strawberry in some seasons covers the prairie. The fruit is small but the flavour delicious; pails of these strawberries can be purchased in the season at about seventy-five cents. Imported red and black currant trees produce quite as well as in Great Britain. Every known vegetable can be cultivated to the greatest perfection with very ordinary care. In fact, so freely and readily do they grow, that they do not, as a rule, receive that modicum of attention required, quantity more than quality being the general aim. Potatoes, without a shovel of manure, produce from three to five hundred bushels per acre. How many a stalwart Irish family have been reared on three or four acres of land, ay, on one acre, before the staple food of the Irish

peasant became subject to disease, the plant then requiring careful cultivation. With a couple of cows, a few pigs and poultry, a warm shanty, and twenty-five acres of land his own property, land that for a long time will require no manure, in what comfort could an Irish family live, who are now toiling for subsistence on the worn-out soil of their native land; and yet millions of acres of this soil are awaiting occupation, and six times twenty-five acres as a free gift from the Government for the asking, and fulfilling the homestead duties, is open to any male over eighteen, and to any widow the head of a family. A good young cow can be purchased for five pounds, young pigs for eight shillings. When one reads of the starving peasants on the western coast of Ireland, and the struggling crofters on the barren highlands of Scotland, and the appeals for assistance to rescue them from death by hunger, it cannot fail to point to the fact that the machinery for promoting immigration to this country has been very inefficient. It is true that an influx of paupers in the land is far from desirable, but year after year, with rare intermissions, dire distress has prevailed among these peoples, necessitating Government and local measures of relief. Would not it have been far better, and much less costly, to have sent the families to Manitoba and the North-West, providing them with the small capital required to start them on their farms? The late famine prevailing on the western sea-board of Ireland during the winter, which was, however,

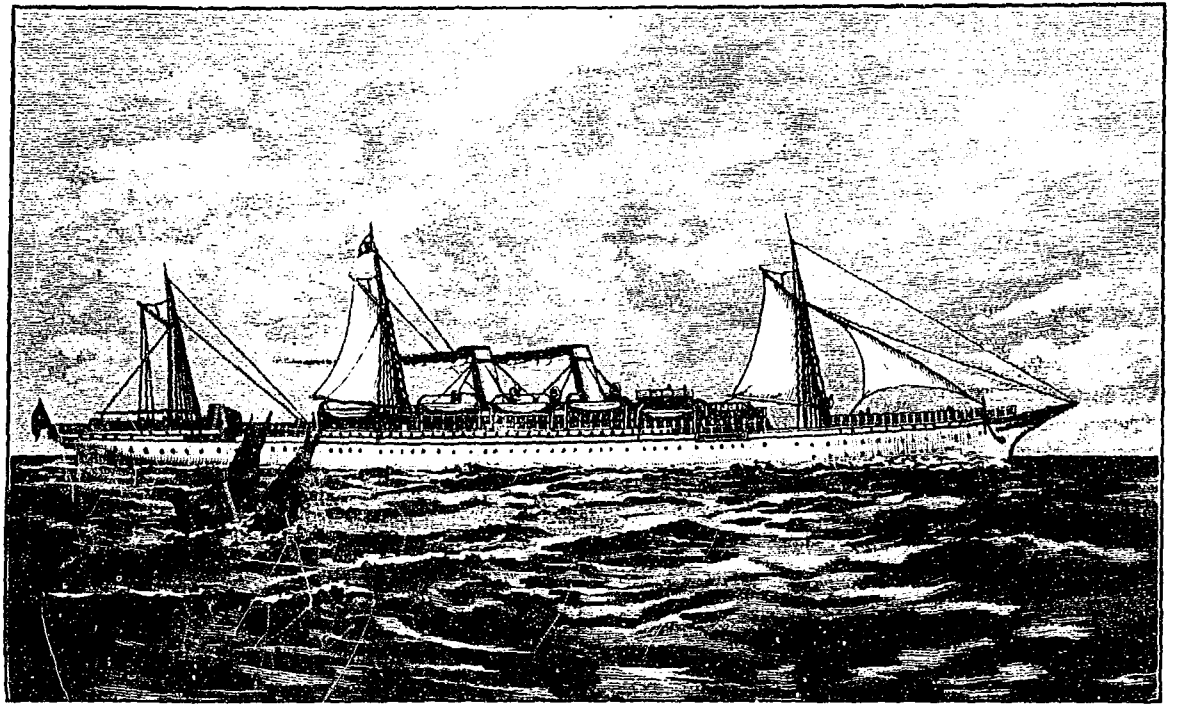
combated by the prosecution of extensive Government works and a large private relief fund, makes this an opportune time for bringing emigration projects before the authorities, more especially as it is contemplated to provide a large sum towards assisting it. Few who have a knowledge of these people would advise the granting of one hundred and sixty acres to a man who has been struggling all his life, as well as his parents before him, to eke a living out of three, or at most five acres, of cold, stony land. Far better to select sections of land throughout the country, dividing each section into thirty-acre farms, leaving the remaining forty acres for roadways and commonage; build on each thirty acres a suitable homestead, break and back-set ten acres on each farm, and provide the settler with a cow, a couple of pigs, and yoke of oxen, with seed grain sufficient to sow his land, also seed potatoes; place the different families on the lands in the early spring, with funds to purchase food until harvest, the whole to be paid for by small annual instalments, and I feel sure that on each section twenty thriving families would be found before they were three years in the country. And to the surrounding farmers each of these settlements would be of material benefit, providing labourers at the busy seasons of the year. The plan is a feasible one, and if both the Imperial and Dominion Governments would take it up, it could be carried out with advantage to all. The comparatively large tracts of land hitherto given free were, no doubt,

given with a view of competing with the United States in attracting immigration, but those who have lived in the country now see the mistake, for throughout the province not a tenth of the land taken up is under cultivation, or is being utilised, and the settlers are generally a mile apart, when twenty families would do well and prosper on six hundred and fifty acres; two settlers, particularly if bachelors, would improve neither their own condition nor the land they dwelt on. The children of Irish or Scotch settlers placed on these thirty-acre farms would grow up in the ways of the country, and would in time move to homesteads of their own in the further west. Of course, my scheme of thirty-acre farm grants only applies to those who are sent out to this country and started in farming at Government expense. To those gentlemen owners of small estates in Ireland, who will avail themselves of the proposed opportunity of selling to the tenants now in occupation of the lands the freehold of their farms, I would say that no country in the world offers better inducement for the investment of their capital. Farming their own demesnes, as most resident Irish gentlemen are accustomed to do, they would be here able to utilise their agricultural experience to the best advantage; and the money paid for their estates, judiciously employed, would return a larger income, without incurring the slightest risk, than in any other country I am acquainted with. It would be very easy for several friends to settle in the same district, and thus keep up

old acquaintances and friendship in a country which will assuredly, in the course of time, become as great, if not greater, than the mighty republic that borders us. To those who can live in comfort in the time-honoured land of old England I do not address myself. It would, indeed, be unwise for any one with sufficient means to live there to transport themselves and their families to the American continent; but many an Irish estate will be sold, and, when all charges are paid off, but a comparatively scanty remainder will be left to support the owner and his family in that position which they were accustomed to hold. Here they can, for a small outlay, secure a larger landed estate than they had parted with, and, by the exercise of ordinary prudence, surround themselves with all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life; and what to parents will probably prove the greatest attraction, as the resources of this great land gradually develop, numerous opportunities will be afforded for the advancement of their children's interest. The English farmer who has been vainly struggling against falling markets and adverse seasons for years past, until resources and energy are alike nearly worn out, can by coming here recuperate both once more. All the soil requires is the willing hand to work it, when, in return, it will yield its teeming treasures. That vast mineral wealth lies under the surface of the North-West there can be no doubt. Coal abounds; evidences of petroleum have been met with in many places; gold, silver, copper, and

iron ore have been found in the Rocky Mountains and elsewhere. The richest silver mines in the world are at Port Arthur. Valuable veins of salt exist, and immense beds of gypsum. Smelting and crushing works are springing up in various localities, and all tend to assure a very bright future for this, the loyalest colony of Great Britain.

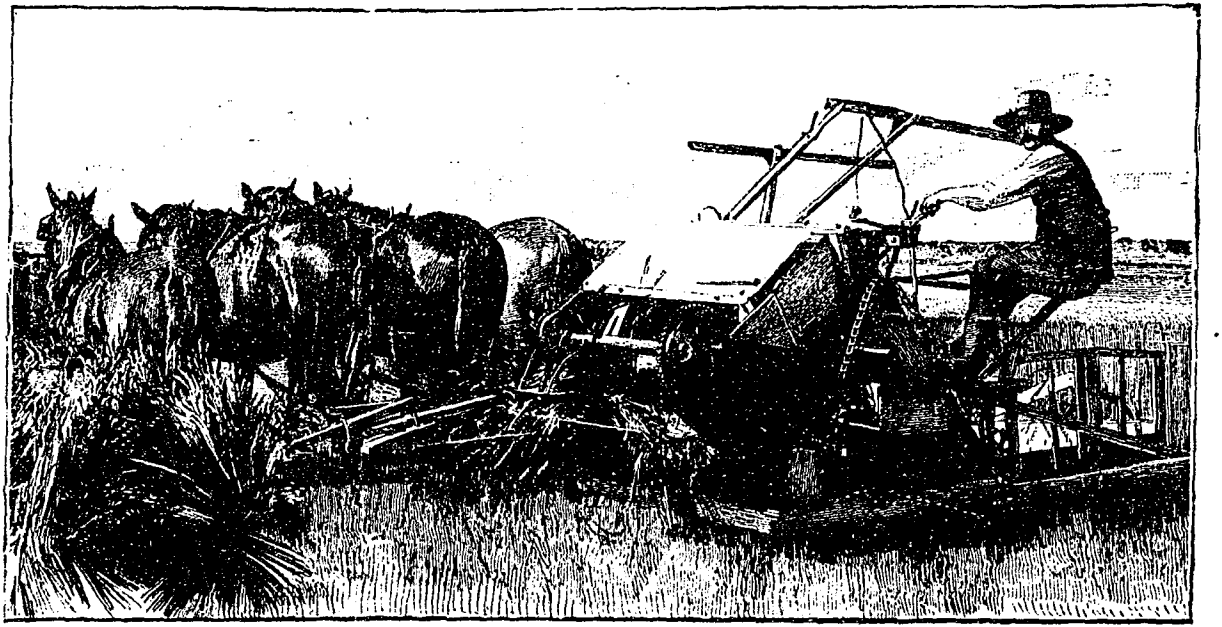
Politics here are always a burning question. They pervade every community, even the social circle is not sacred from their intrusion. They are everlastingly bubbling up, and sway all elections, from the post of scavenger to that of premier, and, as we are overloaded with government, having the Dominion Government, the Local Government, and the Municipal Government, with, a short time since, the County Councils, "which have been happily wiped out," a great field is presented for the political adventurer, a rôle which is generally taken up for the shekels it may bring in, and is pursued as a means of livelihood, which well-known fact does not place all, particularly local politicians, in that proud position which Cæsar's wife was supposed to occupy. Conservatives and Grits are the opposing parties. What the origin or meaning of the latter term, as applied to a political party, is, I have been unable to ascertain. It can hardly be taken in the dictionary meaning of the word, but nevertheless it signifies here what the word "reformer" does in England, and no English reformer was ever more uncompromising in his political doctrines than is the Canadian



CANADIAN PACIFIC "EMPRESS" OCEAN STEAMER.

Grit. His opponents cannot do right, their every thought is evil, their every act for self. But it is to the Conservative party, and more especially to the old warrior Conservative chief, Sir John Macdonald, that Canada owes the prominent position she now occupies among the countries of the world, and the brilliant future which is rapidly unfolding for her. The successful federation of the provinces, and their increasing homogeneity, is due to the acumen and foresight of the Conservative chieftain. The great transcontinental railway, the world-renowned Canadian Pacific, would, but for him, be now under consideration instead of being an accomplished fact, perfect in all its minutest details, and spreading out its tentacles over the oceans of the world in the shape of magnificent steamships, to feed the colossal road which is the wonder and admiration of every traveller. For his share in bringing about these two events, brilliant epochs in Canadian chronology, his name will ever be indissolubly connected with the brightest pages of early Dominion history; and when to these are added a life-long service in his adopted country's interests, as its leader and guide, Conservatives of the future have tangible evidence to point to of the great benefits secured by their predecessors. And pre-eminent among them all, for untold time, must rank the name of John A. Macdonald, whose statesmanlike qualities enabled him to shape out of chaos what will in the future become one of the dominating nations of the earth; and not only did he build it up,

but launched it successfully on the world's geography. He found it the Canadas, composed of many parts; he left it welded into one grand whole, a vast dominion. What Washington accomplished for the American Republic by force of arms, Macdonald by statesmanship peacefully brought about. For, to all intents and purposes, the Canadians are as free as the American people, and were they to desire to sever all connection with Great Britain, no attempt to enforce unwilling allegiance would be made by that power. But it is happily the glory of the Canadian to feel that he is a subject of England's ruler, and that the fair land he dwells in is the brightest jewel in Britain's crown, peopled by loyal hearts, and true to the mother-land. Eccentric utterings as to annexation to the United States are occasionally heard; but though the whole might and power of the so-called reformers, backed up by American influence, was put forth at recent Dominion elections to get in the thin end of the wedge, leading to severance from England, the triumph of the old Conservative chief proved unmistakably the feeling of the people on this subject. It will be a bright day for England, and a happy day for her colonies, when the scheme of Imperial federation which is now talked of, and by many regarded as impracticable, becomes an accomplished fact. The day that dawns on the fruition of this idea will see the Angle-Saxon race the most powerful of the world's peoples, in a position to look calmly on at the disputes of other nationalities, secure by their federa-



REAPING AND BINDING A HEAVY CROP.

tion against any and all combinations which might be attempted, and relying entirely on their own resources for every requirement. Each loyal heart must wish that this, the grandest conception of the closing years of the nineteenth century, may ere long be accomplished. The more the minds of men become familiarised with the idea, the sooner the difficulties that surround the question will be surmounted, and the way cleared for its consummation. The idea is a legacy bequeathed to the rising generation; it is for them to elaborate it.

CLIMATE.

The prevailing climate of Manitoba and the North-West is much maligned, in a great measure, as alluded to before, caused by the pictorial scenes typical of Canadian life, an almost invariable mingling of frost and fur. Take the climate all the year round, it will compare favourably with that of any other country. While we were enjoying exceptional weather during the last winter months of '91, the European continent was snowed up and ice-bound. The bright rays of old Sol are rarely hidden from the inhabitants of Manitoba for twenty-four consecutive hours. In the coldest days of winter, when the thermometer indicates a temperature of 40° below zero, the rays of the sun have a penetrating warmth, the day is bright and sparkling—the sun very different from the watery-looking orb emit-

ting a few slanting rays which endeavour to penetrate through a vapour-laden atmosphere without warmth or animating influence, which the inhabitants of the British Isles are so unpleasantly familiar with. Though the actual degrees of cold are much greater than in corresponding latitudes in the Eastern Hemisphere, it is fully counterbalanced by the dryness of the atmosphere here in comparison with the humid air there prevailing. In ordinary seasons for four months the ground is covered with snow, but not to any great depth, the whole snowfall rarely measuring six inches, the beautiful forms being very different from the large soft flakes familiar to the inhabitants of the British Isles. Here they come down hard, minute little pellets, which would puzzle the schoolboy to manufacture a snowball with, the earth remaining covered with these sparkling molecules until the hot rays of the sun in the latter end of March forms it into a mass which early in April has entirely passed away. In the middle of December the snow falls to stay, and there is no perceptible thaw until spring sets in. To many of the settlers the winter season is the most enjoyable, the crisp, exhilarating air, bright sunshine, the easiness of locomotion behind the tinkling sleigh-bells, all impart a sense of freedom peculiar to the country. Occasional blizzards, rare, and, as a rule, partial in the area they embrace, occur, though winters pass by without one being reported. There is generally sufficient warning of their advent, and if travellers are caught in them and become frost-

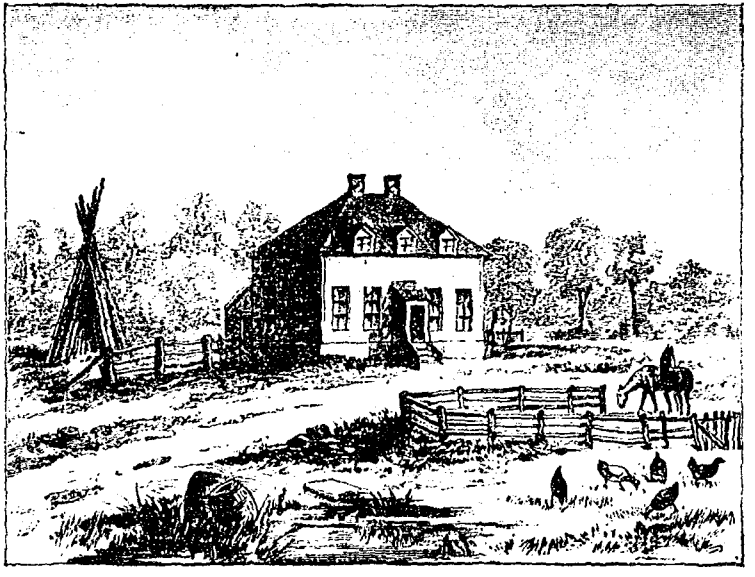
bitten, they are usually to blame themselves for it. A mariner will not start forth from harbour on the trackless ocean during storm and fog; a settler should not leave his fireside or the shelter he can reach while a blizzard is blowing or threatening. But these storms are never either so violent or lasting in North-West Canada as they are in the American states of Dakota and Minnesota, nor are they nearly of such frequent occurrence. The spring weather is very enjoyable; the summer days are hot and sultry, though the nights are cool and pleasant; and the fall of the year, up to the early days of December, is most enjoyable. A cold wave, unhappily not infrequent, though partial in its influence, passes over certain districts in the month of August; it lasts but for a few hours, long enough, however, to work incalculable mischief with the growing wheat crop; scorching weather usually succeeds it, the thermometer not falling to frost again until the end of September. Were it not for these August frosts, there would not be such a wheat-producing country in the world as Manitoba and the North-Western Provinces. The climate is very favourable to the arrest of phthisis in its early stage; many who have been induced to come here suffering from incipient chest affections have soon regained perfect health and strength, while asthmatics, whose lives have been a burden to them in other places, have here obtained entire immunity from the affection. Rheumatism and nasal catarrh are very prevalent, due, in a great mea-

sure, I believe, to the heated rooms which Canadians delight in. With double windows, indiarubber-lined-doors, and every crack jealously stopped up, and a stove in full blast, the hot dry air of the apartment may be imagined; and the transition from this to the external atmosphere, ranging from 20° to 40° below zero, frequently without any additional protection, is no doubt trying to many constitutions. This system of heating is fast giving way to that by water, which is in every way preferable. But if rheumatism and catarrh are prevalent, the remedy is provided. Near the village of Strathclair, on the Manitoba North-Western line, there is a sheet of water known as the salt lake, renowned for its anti-rheumatic virtues. It is beautifully situated, and as the country settles up and a demand arises for these resorts, few more eligible places could be found for the site of a sanitorium than on the banks of this lake. Further westward there are the celebrated Banff Hot Springs, situated in a lovely spot in the Rocky Mountains close to the banks of the Bow River, into which the surplus water of the springs empties. An immense public park, two hundred and sixteen square miles in extent, has been reserved by the Government, who are annually laying out considerable sums of money in building and forming drives through its picturesque scenery. Two handsome Swiss cottages have been built, one protecting a natural cave with an excavation of about thirty-five feet in diameter, where the hot water bubbles up from the rock with considerable

force; the other cottage is connected with an excavation, also natural, known as the Pool, the waters of which are of greater medicinal strength and of a higher temperature. The Sulphur Mountain, where the water first rises to the surface, is about two miles distant, its altitude being 4500 feet. These waters are strongly impregnated with sulphur, and are much sought after for rheumatic and other affections. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company have erected a very handsome and spacious hotel in the Park, very picturesquely placed. Belonging to this company, and operated by them, is a guarantee of everything in connection with it being as near perfection as possible The tariff is very moderate, and with the natural advantages of Banff, the health-restoring springs, the magnificent mountain scenery, the snow-clad peaks of the Rockies towering above, and the varied hues of the thickly-wooded slopes, with the swift waters of the Bow River gurgling along and abounding with trout, few places present greater attractions for those seeking health, rest, and quietness amidst nature's grandest surroundings. That it will ere long invite a larger proportion of those travellers who are becoming weary of European summer resorts, and gladly wend their way to fresh fields, there can be little doubt. A sanitorium, well appointed and managed, under the superintendence of a physician, has been built on the banks of the Bow, and large baths are there supplied with water from the springs, conveyed direct by iron pipes. The establish-

ment is well patronised, being generally crowded in the summer months, and is much resorted to by American citizens. Banff is readily accessible, being on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the long journey divested of all fatigue by the luxurious means of travelling provided.

The foregoing pages contain a brief but true and faithful description of this country. It is naturally the desire of every Englishman to see the colonies of the mother country, won by her sturdy sons as the fruits of victory or the prize of the bold discoverer, peopled largely by his own race, more especially when the climate is particularly adapted for their constitution. The nationalities of the world are fast becoming attracted to the fertile lands of this vast Dominion. It is no doubt the policy to induce the surplus population of all nations to come, help and build up a great people. But it is more especially the desire to attract our own countrymen, our kith and our kin, to share that heritage which the blood and enterprise of our forefathers has secured for them. Germans, Scandinavians, Icelanders, French, Russians, Swedes, &c., are pouring into the land. But we want the English farmer, the Scotch farmer, the Irish and Welsh farmer, and the small capitalists from these nationalities to come out here where they can undoubtedly better themselves, and help to form that Greater Britain of which the Dominion of Canada will form so large and so powerful a constituent part. If the inhabitants of the British



A SETTLER'S HOUSE—SECOND YEAR.

Isles for one moment truly realised the opportunity now within their reach, not one Briton would wend his way to other lands. But the peoples of the mother country have never grasped the value of the heritage awaiting their occupancy. Its advantages have never been placed in a true light before them. The country has been painted in terms of either gross exaggeration or equally false depreciation, engendering a doubt concerning it. But the great Railway Corporation so largely interested in its development is taking steps to prove by ocular demonstration the almost incredible fertility of the soil. Cars containing the various productions of Manitoba and the North-West traverse the railway lines of England, Scotland, and Ireland. The people can then judge of the truth of those Baron Munchausen stories which describe this country as a region of perpetual frost and snow. The sun shines not on a fairer land, and we who have gone before are now anxious to see our countrymen who contemplate a change directing their steps hitherward, that is, if they are of the true British material. The idler, the grumbler, the effeminate dandy, the loafer and day-dreamer had better stay at home, for this is a land where the curse laid on our first parents rests on man's brow. It is by his sweat he eats bread; but, if the labour is given, the return is very bountiful. No one need want, no one need be hungry. If they are, the fault lies with themselves. The elements of plenty are within their grasp; they have but to labour to secure them.

These pages would be incomplete for the purposes I have penned them, unless I gave an opinion as to the class of people for whom this country affords exceptional attractions. I have before alluded to certain classes who would never regret following the advice I have given; but there are others whom this great land would receive with open arms, and who could not fail to better themselves by the change here, namely, the good, honest labourer, who conscientiously gives his day's work for his day's pay. It provokes a smile from those who know the English labourer to see the genus that too frequently presents himself as a specimen of the class. With unlimited self-assurance, a cadaverous, undersized stripling skips into your room in answer to an advertisement, or an application to an agency for a servant man. Sharp in tongue as in visage, this precocious youth naively acknowledges that he knows nothing of the duties he is expected to perform, but has no fear that he will not readily pick them up. If induced to test his good intentions and he is employed, a very brief time is sufficient to convince his employer of his utter uselessness. Brought up probably in a manufacturing centre, tainted with all the vices there abounding, he has been very likely, even among the bad, looked upon as such a ne'er-do-well as to induce his relatives to rid themselves of him, and the machinery is set in motion which relieves England of an undesirable citizen and saddles Manitoba with one. Considerably greater circumspection

should be exercised in promoting the immigration of these lads from the older countries. The American authorities have awoke to this necessity, and are now exercising a strict scrutiny over emigrants arriving in their ports. It becomes, then, more incumbent on the Canadian authorities to do likewise, for as the difficulties attending immigration into the United States by undesirable emigrants from other countries become known, the ports of Canada will become the dumping-ground for these very unwelcome visitors. The argument that there is room for all is a feeble one; the old adage that "an empty house is preferable to a bad tenant" more forcibly applies. The influx into this country of so many of the above class has led to a very erroneous opinion being formed by those who are unacquainted with old-country folks and ways. The true agricultural labourer of Great Britain is one of the most single-minded and industrious of his class. Depression in farming pursuits has induced many of them to drift into the centres of population seeking for a livelihood. A walk around the London docks in a morning will show the numbers of strong, able men waiting for a chance to earn a few pence. These are the class of farm labourers that are wanted here, and who would succeed beyond their utmost expectations. A competent farm hand can readily hire out for a yearly wage of two hundred dollars, over forty pounds English money. Ten pounds a year should be ample for his personal expenditure; indeed, with everything sup-

plied to him except clothing, half that amount ought to be sufficient, so that at the end of five years he would find himself with over eight hundred dollars capital, with which sum he could move further west, and in his turn become an owner of land and an employer of labour. It will be prudent for the farm hand to draw his wages monthly, and if not in reach of a bank, he can easily forward it by registered letter to the Dominion Savings Bank in Winnipeg. It is unwise for him to either keep, lend, or allow it to accumulate in the hands of his employer. In this way not only is he acquiring the means necessary for starting on a farm himself, but he is also gaining a knowledge of that system of farming best adapted to the country. His old-world experience will stand him in good stead; the chief differences in agriculture between the new and the old world being the comparatively short time that all operations must be completed in the former, and which the improved implements of husbandry, unknown a few years since, enable one to accomplish. Though advocating the wisdom of a man without capital working for others until he can lay up a sufficient sum to start on his own account, there are many thriving farmers to be met, with well-filled granaries and well-stocked byres, who commenced on their homesteads with a twenty-dollar bill or less, and who by industry and frugality have attained to a great success.

Besides hiring out with farmers, there is a first-

A SNUG FARMER'S HOMESTEAD.

rate opening in this country for families, to settle in districts, say a man and his wife and children having a little capital. All that are able and willing to earn their daily hire can find constant employment, and yet live independently in their own shanty. There are few districts that would not afford a number of such settlers abundant work at such remunerative wages as would soon render them independent. No difficulty would be found in getting an acre or two of land to erect their dwellings on, with sufficient potato-ground. Pasturage for cows would be also easily obtainable; in fact, all the necessaries which a cottier has to pay so dearly for in the old country can be had for practically nothing. No colony of Great Britain, or that of any other country, is more suitable for the Anglo-Saxon to settle in, and nowhere can he meet with greater natural advantages. That he will meet with no drawbacks it would be idle and untrue to state. The farmer has had to contend with early August frosts, which have prevailed in certain districts for several consecutive years, and many of them in consequence were ruined. But it was only where the farmer had packed all his eggs in one basket, and entirely trusted to the production of Red Fyfe wheat. Severe hail-storms have occasionally worked great havoc among growing crops, and a blight has occurred in some parts of the country, but what part of the world is free from these visitations? Again, the seasons of agricultural work are short, and much has to be com-

pressed into a brief time. Still, the settler who has his breeding mares, cattle, pigs, sheep, and poultry, with a variety of cereals, even on a very limited scale, is certain to be able to live well and comfortably, and progress steadily to independence and wealth. His failure, if he should fail, is due to himself. There can be no doubt that the far greater number of farmers in Manitoba know very little of the occupation they adopted, and carried out their operations in a very crude, careless, and slovenly manner, which in any other country would have yielded no return, but the great fertility of the soil responded even to their unscientific handling. A well-deserved rebuke was given by one of the delegates who lately visited the Dominion from Great Britain and Ireland. On being asked what he thought of the country he had that day travelled through, it being in the vicinity of Winnipeg, he answered, "I have seen splendid land, but most execrable farming"—a remark which might be fairly applied to many other districts of the province. The reports of the delegates from England, Scotland, and Ireland have been printed by the Government for distribution in the several countries, and I would refer intending emigrants to the exhaustive reports given by these gentlemen, who travelled throughout the Dominion and were afforded every possible facility for forming a correct judgment of the resources of the country. The compilations give pleasant reading, and are well illustrated by faithful representations of agricultural operations and scenes in Manitoba

and the North-West, and will prove a useful guide to the emigrant both as to locality and the vocation he may desire to follow. The delegates were much struck with the magnificent natural grasses of the country. As they have supported countless herds of buffalo in the past, so would they afford abundant food for herds of milch cattle; and yet, strange to tell, I am penning these lines in the latter end of the month of April, and not one pound of really good butter is to be had in Winnipeg. Indeed, the greater portion on hand, which is generally retailed by grocers, is unfit for use. A good wholesome article, which can be produced in almost limitless quantities, would command a remunerative price and obtain a ready sale. The opportunity awaits the advent of some enterprising settlers to embrace it. Cheese-making, which is now becoming general throughout the country, may in some measure account for the scanty butter supply. But there is limitless room for the production of both industries. Cheese of excellent quality can be manufactured, and the attention of farmers is being drawn to its production. Several creameries have been established in the province, and a very considerable amount of cheese was last year produced, meeting with ready sale at remunerative prices. The grass land is capable of producing first-class milk; it is the farmer's fault if first-class cheese and butter does not come from it. I have not tasted better clotted cream in Devonshire than was produced on my farm on the banks of the Cypress River.

The recent annual statement of the Deputy Minister of the Interior gives the number of acres made over by the Dominion Government during the year 1890 in homesteads, pre-emptions, and direct sales as 667,670 acres. The total area of coal lands sold to date was 1,307,976. The acreage under crop in Manitoba was 1,053,263 acres, the average yield being 22 bushels of wheat, 40 bushels of oats, 30 bushels of barley, aggregating 16,000.000 bushels of wheat, about 10,000,000 bushels of oats, and 2,000,000 bushels of barley, potatoes yielding from 240 to 300 bushels per acre.

The railway mileage in Manitoba, the North-West Territories, and British Columbia gave a total of 3951 miles, with 383 miles now being constructed by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. There are millions of acres of the best land in the country yet awaiting occupation, while the Governments, Dominion and local, railway corporations, and steamship companies are all offering every inducement to the immigrant to come to the great North-West, and these exertions will probably eventuate in such an influx of various nationalities that those who are now dallying in indecision will regret their not being earlier in the field, as those first coming will naturally locate around the present centres of civilisation. The Dominion Government offer fifteen dollars—£3, 1s. 8d.—to the head of any family, seven dollars and fifty cents—£1, 10s. 10d. —for the wife and for each member of the family over twelve years of age; and a further sum of £1, 10s. 10d.

to every member of the family eighteen years old and upwards taking up land. Forms of application for these bonuses may be obtained when passage tickets are issued, from any authorised agent of the Canadian Steamship Lines in Great Britain and Ireland. The lands of the country are surveyed into townships of six square miles each, subdivided into thirty-six sections containing one square mile, six hundred and forty acres, which is further subdivided into quarter sections of one hundred and sixty acres each. It will be readily seen that a man and his three sons can take up one square mile of land between them, the total cost of which will be forty dollars, a little over eight pounds British, while the Government are prepared to give a bonus to a man, his wife, and three sons settling on this six hundred and forty acres of a sum of money amounting to £13, 17s. 6d., and on completing the very light homestead duties required for improving the land, they each become entitled to a patent for their respective quarter sections of one hundred and sixty acres as a freehold in perpetuity. In addition to the Government land open for settlement, immense tracts are held by corporate bodies. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company have about fourteen million acres granted them by Government for the building of their line. No argument could prove better than this fact the interest this Company has in building up the country by every means in their power. Its interests are their interests, with its progress their lands increase in value,

and every settler becomes a feeder for their line. The absurd accusations of this Company exercising a grinding monopoly cannot have a better refutation than by statement of these facts. Their lands lie alongside their various lines, and are disposed of on most liberal terms at almost nominal prices. Every information can be obtained about the Canadian Pacific Railway lands on application to the Land Commissioner, Mr. L. A. Hamilton, at Winnipeg.

The Canada North-West Land Company have also a large area, and spare no trouble or expense in forwarding the interests of the settlers on the lands of the Company. The active interest which Mr. W. B. Scarth, late M.P. for Winnipeg, their Land Commissioner, takes in all those who settle under the auspices of the Company is well known, and every information concerning their lands can be obtained by application to him at Winnipeg.

The Hudson's Bay Company had two sections in each township reserved for them at the taking over of the territory by the Dominion Government, 8 and 26, and, as before mentioned, they turned out as a rule to be the best in the several townships. The Manitoba and North-Western Railway, which runs through a magnificent country, have a great extent of very valuable land for disposal. Their Land Commissioner is Mr. A. F. Eden, Winnipeg. There are several other companies, besides private owners, with lands for sale at very low rates, and on easy terms of purchase. But

AFTER TEN YEARS IN MANITOBA.

intending emigrants with but little capital will do well to remember that they can take up one hundred and sixty acres of land from the Government, and on performing the homestead duties become absolute owners at a cost of ten dollars, with the privilege of entering on another one hundred and sixty acres and homesteading it. The following are the regulations governing homestead entries:—

All even numbered sections of Dominion lands in Manitoba or the North-West Territories, excepting 8 and 26, which have not been homesteaded, reserved to provide wood lots for settlers, or other purposes, may be homesteaded by any person who is the sole head of a family, or male over eighteen years of age, to the extent of one quarter section of one hundred and sixty acres more or less.

Entry.—Entry may be made personally at the local land office in which the land to be taken is situate, or if the homesteader desire he may, on application to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, or the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Winnipeg, receive authority for some one to make entry for him. A fee of ten dollars is charged for an ordinary homestead entry, but for lands which have been occupied an additional fee of ten dollars is chargeable, to meet inspection and cancellation expenses.

Homestead Duties.—Under the present law homestead duties may be performed in three ways, and on making application for entry the settler must declare under

which of the following conditions he elects to hold his land:—

1. Three years' cultivation and residence, during which period the settler may not be absent for more than six months in any one year without forfeiting the entry.

2. Residence for three years anywhere within two miles of the homestead quarter section, and afterwards actual residence in a habitable house upon the homestead for three months prior to application for patent. Under this system ten acres must be broken the first year after entry, fifteen additional in the second, and fifteen in the third year; ten acres to be in crop the second year, and twenty-five acres the third year.

3. The five years' system, under which a settler may reside anywhere for the first two years, but must perfect his entry by commencing cultivation within six months after the date thereof, breaking five acres the first year, cropping those five acres and breaking ten acres additional the second year, and also building a habitable house before the end of the second year. The settler must commence actual residence on the homestead at the expiration of two years from the date of entry, and thereafter reside upon and cultivate his homestead for at least six months in each of the three next succeeding years.

Application for Patent.—Before making application for patent, the settler must give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands of his intention to do so.

A second homestead may be taken by any one who has received a homestead patent, or a certificate of recommendation countersigned by the Commissioner of Dominion Lands upon application for patent made by him, or had earned title to his first homestead on or prior to the second day of June 1887.

Information.—Full information respecting the land, timber, coal, and mineral laws, and copies of these regulations, as well as those respecting Dominion Lands in the Railway Belt in British Columbia, may be obtained upon application to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa; the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Winnipeg, Manitoba; or to any of the Dominion Land Agents in Manitoba or the North-West territories.

Subsequent to these notes being re-written, the lamented death of Sir John A. Macdonald occurred. And there can be no doubt that his demise will very materially modify the political feelings of a large proportion of the residents of Manitoba and the North-West. The settlers flocking here from Eastern Canada, chiefly young men, came with an unbounded faith in the late Premier, and with an unswerving fealty towards him, feelings also largely held by the settlers from the mother-land. The Canadian was born with this faith in the good old chieftain; the Saxon rendered it in acknowledgment for the thorough loyalty which Sir John Macdonald ever evinced and inculcated towards the crown of England. Hardships of legislation almost

amounting to injustice were tolerated, solely because he was at the head of the Government, and opposition might embarrass the old chief, and add to the difficulties which, as Premier of Canada, he had no doubt often to encounter. But with his removal this feeling has died out, and these provinces of the Dominion will no longer allow themselves to be kept as a preserve for Eastern manufacturers to fatten on. While the public funds have been squandered in the colossal boodling which investigation has revealed, to the indignation and disgust of the whole world, works requiring comparatively small expenditure, but of immense importance to Manitoba, have been put off from year to year by flimsy excuses and transparent subterfuges. Every possible difficulty was thrown in the way of the Hudson's Bay railway construction; false assertions, bolstered up by fictitious reports, were kept in circulation with the object of discrediting the project in the eyes of European capitalists; and why? because the Eastern manufacturers and merchants knew full well that the completion of this line will put this province in direct communication with the continent of Europe, and those various articles we are now obliged to purchase in the markets of Eastern Canada will come to us direct from Europe, better in material, better in manufacture, and at less cost, than the goods we now receive from the east. The completion of this line will induce a larger immigration, and will influence the capitalists of the old world to employ their money

in developing the boundless resources of Western Canada. While on the subject of emigration, I cannot pass without notice the miserable failure which has attended the misdirected and feeble efforts of this department at Ottawa in the promotion of it. Sums of money have been granted year by year for this purpose, and have been squandered uselessly, and unavailingly frittered away in sops to political hacks incompetent to carry out the object in view, as they were utterly careless to do so. One year has followed another in the effete administration of this Dominion department, and the moneys granted by both Dominion and Provincial Governments for the promotion of immigration have been recklessly squandered to no purpose. And were it not for the vigorous and well-directed efforts of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Western Canada would still be a *terra incognita* to most European nationalities. The late Dominion Census conveys a stinging rebuke to the official charged with the working of this most important branch of the Government. The settlers in Western Canada are loyal to the Dominion, and the large majority ultra loyal to the Crown. But our Eastern legislators must call to mind that Manitoba, notwithstanding somewhat oppressive legislation, is marching onwards. The late Premier is stated to have said, "You cannot check Manitoba;" however, legislation has succeeded in checking her progress, but she cannot be extinguished. In strength and wealth she is yearly progressing; slowly,

it is true, with her manifold advantages almost incredibly slowly; but her progress is sure, and her inherent resources commands for her a bright and brilliant future. Our representatives have but feeble voice in the Halls of Parliament, almost a unit, amid the large number of Eastern representatives, Conservatives and so-called Liberals, in their hostile feeling towards the west of the Dominion. The cry of Manitoba's rights has now an increased meaning and more backbone in it than it had in the past, and there is a steadily growing distaste that this part of the Dominion should continue to be merely an appanage to the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, whose peoples betray such an eager desire to check our advancement and minimise our advantages. The late Governor-General, the present Viceroy of India, when in Canada, in one of his speeches said that the cohesion of the provinces forming the Dominion depended on their entire contentment. That in course of time Canada west of St. Paul will dominate the land, provided the work of that great statesman we all so truly mourned for remains intact, cannot but present itself to every thinking mind. It remains for the authorities in the east to grasp the fact that the personal prestige of Sir John Macdonald, and the almost personal love that was felt for him, not forgetting his incomparable tact, is for ever gone, and shape their course accordingly. The legislation of the Ottawa Government, of whatever shade of politics it is composed, will in the next few years either

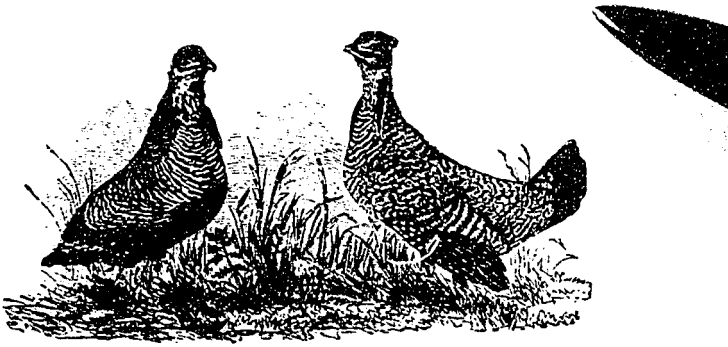
weld closer the provinces comprising the Dominion, or will so loosen the connecting-links as to allow of its again falling to pieces. That that day may never dawn is the prayer of every one interested in the country's welfare, but that this break-up in the future is possible few who give the question a thought will deny. It may be asked, What would the position of Manitoba be to-day if, instead of being a portion of the Dominion, the province had been made a crown colony? and the answer is, that Great Britain's inexhaustible wealth would have been applied to the development of her resources, and, instead of a dribbling immigration from various nationalities, at this date numbering some hundred thousand souls, scattered over the immense region composing Western Canada, there would now be a population of millions, with manufactories and industries inviting a still greater influx of immigration. The Hudson's Bay Railway, so long blocked by the wiles of Eastern politicians, and still struggling with the last throes of opposition, would long since have been an accomplished fact, placing Winnipeg within a few hours of the sea-board, and providing the nearest route to the markets of the world. That all the authentic evidence we possess points to the fact that navigation to Europe by Hudson's Bay is open for several months in the year, for a period equal, if not exceeding, the time in which the St. Lawrence is navigable, those only who desire to think otherwise will deny. But notwithstanding all opposition to the project the construction

of this railway promises early accomplishment, when the most sceptical will have to abandon their doubts. Manitoba is an integral portion of the Dominion of Canada. Her inhabitants are certainly not inferior to those of the other provinces in intelligence and enterprise; we seek no unfair share of the common fund to which we contribute so largely in ever-increasing amount; we require no spoon-feeding, as a defunct Eastern statesman once expressed himself. Manitoba wants her just rights and her just share of Dominion funds: the people are chagrined to read the unjust utterances, made chiefly by prominent members of the Liberal party, that Manitoba is always wanting something but contributes nothing to the Dominion exchequer; that Eastern Canada has spoon-fed her with gentle care, built her railways and other public works, never receiving anything in return. Yet it has been conclusively shown that forty-two million acres of the fertile lands of Manitoba and the North-West have been granted as subsidies to various railways. The entire province of Manitoba contains little over forty-one million acres, which embraces lands of all descriptions; but the various railway companies have had the pick of the lands, and sell them from three to twenty dollars an acre. Our customs returns are annually largely increasing, and form now no inconsiderable asset of the Dominion exchequer. It is therefore idle to hurl these false statements at our heads. Mr. Davin, in the House of Commons at Ottawa, has conclusively shown that the

revenue contributed to the Dominion purse between the years 1880 and 1890 by Manitoba, amounted to 16,901,624 dollars. The cost of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the province of Manitoba and the North-West, to the foot of the Rockies, was 15,767,419 dollars. The land subsidy given to this corporation for the work of construction was 18,206,986 acres. Putting this land at the very low value of two dollars per acre, it represents a sum of 36,413,972 dollars. Some Eastern politicians would seem to regard Manitoba and the North-West somewhat in a similar spirit that England regarded her colonies in days of yore, instead of being an integral and very important portion of the Dominion. This great western land is regarded as a possession of the east, to be utilised for the benefit of Eastern Canadians. We have been told that this vast track of country was purchased from the Hudson's Bay Company. Any person acquainted with English history knows that the Hudson's Bay Company had as much right to dispose of North-Western Canada as they would have to sell Ireland. Even the rights that had been originally granted to this company had lapsed by the efflux of time, and had not been renewed. We hope that under the fresh régime a more liberal policy will be pursued towards Manitoba and the territories, that more life will be infused into immigration efforts, and our vast tracts of unoccupied lands settled, and that the cry we now hear will not prove the mere echo of that we have year by year been deluded with, viz.,

that a large emigration from Europe to these shores will take place in the coming spring, and that great efforts were being put forth by the Government to meet it. For many years past the papers published during the winter months have had this announcement. The following autumn has proved its falsity. We have had in 1891 an abundant harvest, for, notwithstanding that frost injured the wheat in many places, it took many months to ship our surplus grain out of the province; and this is largely due to the scarcity of labour in the harvest season, and the limited facility afforded to the farmers for threshing it. With a railway so interested in developing the resources of this country, and so alive to these interests as the Canadian Pacific Railway directors are, would it not be well until the knotty problem of scarce labour is solved, for the Canadian Pacific Railway to make some arrangement by which the Irish and Scotch peasants who are in the habit of emigrating to England in the harvest time could be induced to extend their journey across the Atlantic, arriving here the latter end of June. Thousands of labourers can get four months' work at $30 a month, earning in the aggregate something over £30, which, after deducting the price of their passage to and from at a reduced fare, would leave a larger balance than they carry home after the English harvest. Many would no doubt elect to stay here, and those who returned would be walking advertisements of the country, and would unquestionably be the means of inducing thousands to come and cast their lot on

Manitoba's fertile plains. The advent of these labourers would be an inestimable boon to the Manitoba farmers. If such a scheme were carried out, the labourers coming over could be placed before they embarked, and their passage money thus secured to the railway authorities. Supervision should be exercised as to the class of men eligible for the venture, but this and other matters of detail could be readily elaborated.



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